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DELHI, MADRAS SHINE

56,880 qualify for IIT after JEE Advanced

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Prices of commercial, free trade LPG go up

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'CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS'

Iran stops U.S. talks as Israel strikes Lebanon

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STATE OF PLAY

A.P. data centre a major challenge

India is not yet ready with facilities for Google's hyperscale hub

OPINION » PAGE 9

FRENCH OPEN

Auger-Aliassime enters quarterfinals

SPORT » PAGE 15

Cong. leaders in Delhi to lobby for Cabinet berths

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar and caretaker Chief Minister Siddaramaiah are expected to hold a crucial meeting on Tuesday with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other leaders in New Delhi over the composition of the new Cabinet.

Ahead of the swearing in ceremony of Mr. Shivakumar, the entire Congress leadership is camping in Delhi for lobbying for Cabinet berths.

While Mr. Gandhi's late arrival in the capital pushed the meeting by a day, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal met to discuss developments on Monday.

DETAILED REPORT ON
» PAGE 7

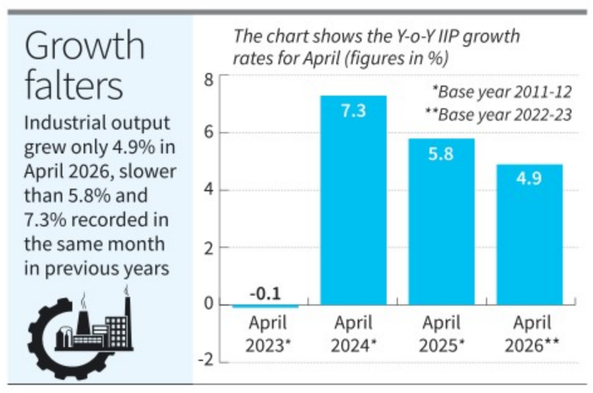
Industrial output slows to 4.9% in new data series

The base year has been revised to 2022-23 from 2011-12; growth rate in April was slower than 5.8% recorded in the corresponding period last year; mining and quarrying output declined by over 5%

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

India's industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 4.9% in April 2026 under the revised series with 2022-23 as the base year released on Monday. The growth rate was slower than 5.8% recorded in April last year with 2011-12 as the base year.

The new series has broadened the coverage of the index by incorporating water supply, sewerage and waste management activities and gas supply, while retaining the existing three core sectors – mining, manufacturing, and electricity. Of the four sectoral indices, three grew at a slower pace and one shrunk in the reporting month on a year-on-year basis. While mining and quarrying output declined by over 5.1%, manufacturing sector output grew at 6.2% in the reporting month, slightly slower than the 6.3% in 2025. The electricity and gas supply sector grew at 4.9% while water supply, sewerage and waste management grew at 6.6%.



The base years of major macroeconomic indicators, which were earlier 2011-12, were revised in 2026 beginning with the GDP. The IIP is the latest in the measures that have been revised to 2022-23 as the base year.

Besides adding new sectoral divisions, the new series also entails "improved granularity". For instance, mining sector index will now include data classification for fuel minerals, metallic minerals, including rare earth minerals and non-metallic minerals, including minor minerals. Similarly, the electricity index has been classified into renewable and non-renewable sources.

The new basket of goods to calculate IIP consists of 1,042 products mapped to 463 item groups. The older series had just 839 items mapped to 407 item groups. Further, the weights provided to each sector and each industry within the manufacturing sector has been revised in line with the updated Gross Value Added (GVA) 2022-23 series.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

'No space for anti-India elements in Myanmar'

Promising talks: PM Narendra Modi with Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing in New Delhi on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Visiting Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing has assured India that he will not allow use of his country's territory by groups that pose a security threat to Indian interests. The concern was raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who held broad-spectrum conversations with Mr. Hlaing on Monday, including calls for dialogue between the junta-backed government and the pro-democracy Opposition in Myanmar. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the discussion included the issue of detention of former leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

"The President reiterated Myanmar's assurance that its territory would not be permitted to be used against India's security interests. The Prime Minister affirmed that India... remained committed to deepening security cooperation," a joint statement issued at the end of the official discussion mentioned.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

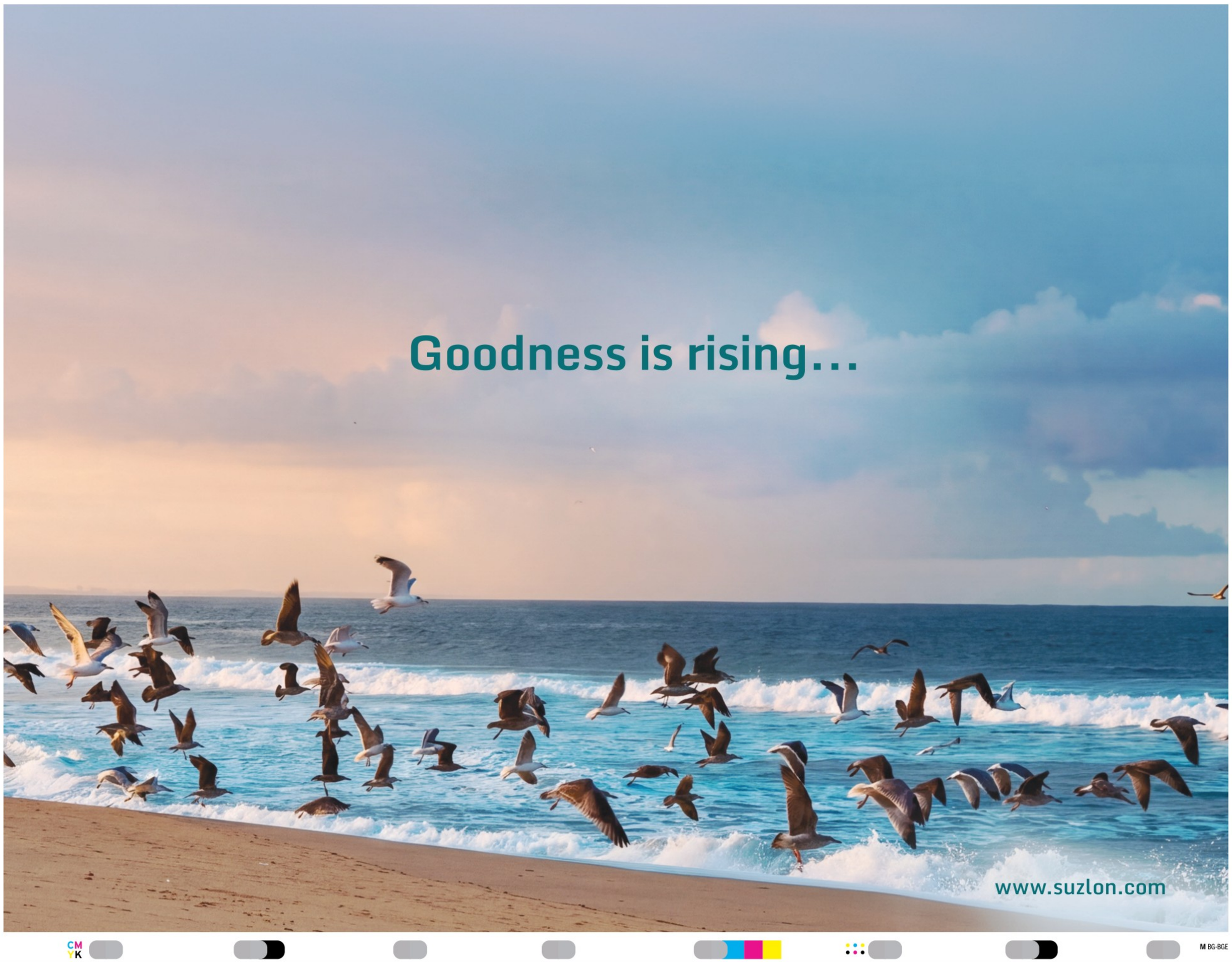
NEARBY

'Outsiders' seek to enter RS from Karnataka Cong.

BENGALURU
With the ruling Congress in Karnataka set to secure three of the four Rajya Sabha seats in the biennial elections scheduled for June 18, the high command is believed to be considering nominating a Congress leader from outside the State. » PAGE 6

Purported audio of Zameer on bypolls goes viral

BENGALURU
A purported telephonic conversation between former Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan and Congress leader Mohammed Siraj, which went viral on Monday, sparked a fresh controversy. » PAGE 6



VIJAY SONEJI

Kohli, Bhuvneshwar and the band that believed

The veterans showed they still have enough fuel left in the tank to dominate as Royal Challengers Bengaluru retained the IPL crown with ease; Patidar, unperturbed by the expectations, scripted his own piece of history by winning back-to-back trophies

R. Kaushik

To assert with any certainty that there was always a sense of inevitability about Royal Challengers Bengaluru storming to a second successive IPL title can only come with the assurance of a mission already accomplished. But there is no denying that from the outset, it was clear that this juggernaut would take some stopping.

The weight of the world had been lifted from their shoulders last June, when they ended years of heartbreak with a six-run defeat of Punjab Kings in the final in Ahmedabad. At the same Narendra Modi Stadium, they etched their name on the trophy for the second time on Sunday night, brushing aside Gujarat Titans with a chilling finality that resonated with their army of fans across the world.

Rajat Patidar, the unassuming and unlikely hero of this remarkable transformation, couldn't have given himself a better birthday gift. The Madhya Pradesh man turned 33 on Monday; he also turned a corner of sorts as he joined M.S. Dhoni and Rohit Sharma as the only captains to have successfully defended the IPL trophy.

'Attacking' the title

'Defend' was actually a word missing from the Bengaluru franchise's lexicon all season long. They didn't quite relish the tag of 'defending champions' because that's not how they have reshaped their philosophy. It was therefore in the fitness of things that they attacked a second title rather than defended the first one.

The skipper was at the forefront of many a stunning cameo, though the more meaningful and numerically significant contributions came from two men who joined the franchise as teenagers so many moons ago.

Virat Kohli was picked up by the flamboyant but also prescient Vijay Mallya at the draft for under-19 players ahead of the inaugural edition. Kohli had just led the Indian colts to a memorable title run in Kuala Lumpur, even then showing a feisty aggression that remains his calling card.

Delhi Daredevils, who had the first bite at the draft cherry, passed up the opportunity to snap up the burgeoning local hero, investing instead in the left-arm pace of Pradeep Sangwan because they felt they already had enough top-order batting options in skipper Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Shikhar Dhawan and AB de Villiers.

Gem of a pick

RCB's turn was next, and they grabbed Kohli with both hands, sparking a bond for the ages. There is no gainsaying how Kohli's IPL career, potentially even his India career, would have panned out had he turned out first for Daredevils (renamed Delhi Capitals). But with RCB, he has grown organically, from a young tyro occupying a dressing room populated by the likes of Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Jacques Kallis and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, among others, to a leader of men and now an elder statesman who continues to be the fulcrum that has effectively kept Father Time at bay.

Kohli is 37 and a half, a young man in all aspects except sporting, you'd imagine. In cricketing terms, even for a batter, 37 and a half is a lot closer to the end of one's career than its beginning. But if you didn't know who Kohli was and what his age was (which is impossible for anyone who has even a fleeting interest in the sport), you'd not even start to guess that he has been playing at the international level for nearly 19 years.

RCB possessing a host of match-winners ensured that the whole was significantly more than the sum of their impressive parts

Even today, despite having achieved almost everything there is to achieve, among them World Cup triumphs in both the 50- and 20-over versions, he is energised by the scent of battle, by the prospect of taking on and taming the fastest, the craftiest and the wiliest bowlers in the business.

Internationally, he only plays 50-over cricket, and isn't therefore seen in India colours as much as his adoring supporters would want. Maybe that has contributed to his freshness because over the last two months, Kohli has been a compelling, commanding figure who has towered over the others with his intensity and unhidden passion.

He is still prone to histrionics – needless, many might harangue – but even that is part of the larger-than-life Kohli persona, a way of rousing himself up that seems to be working wonders for him.

At the top of his game

Kohli finished as his franchise's leading run-maker and fourth overall in the Orange Cap race. In the past, he has made plenty more than his 675 runs this season, but he hasn't scored those runs at the same rate that marked his domination of this campaign.

Kohli hammered 73 fours – the third most after Sai Sudharsan (75) and Shubman Gill (74) – and 25 sixes as he struck at 165.84. The boundaries accounted for 65.5% of his runs, but he also didn't forget the lifeblood of run-making, which is the humble single and slightly less modest two.

He egged on men a decade and more younger to keep looking for twos when even a run and a half was a stretch, he threw himself around the park with an enthusiasm that would have put the 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to shame, and – lest we should forget that avatar – he was in the face and ears of the opposition batters, snarling and growling and sometimes opting to ignore outstretched right hands after a game, such as with Travis Head of Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Skipper's meteoric rise

Fears that the towering, inescapable shadow of Kohli would stymie Patidar's growth as a leader of men have proved singularly unfounded in the last two years. Patidar's has been an interesting journey with the franchise. Bought in 2021, released after a disappointing season and requisitioned late in 2022 as an injury replacement for Luvnith Sisodia, Patidar reminded everyone of his extraordinary skills with a century in the Eliminator against Lucknow Super Giants.

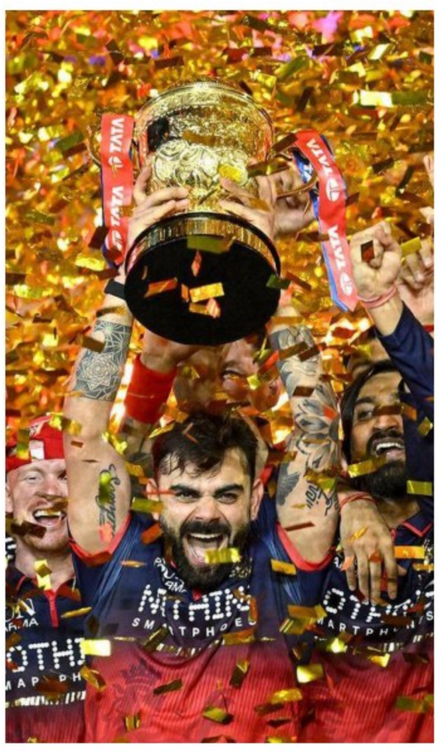
He missed the whole of IPL 2023 with a severe Achilles' heel injury for which he underwent surgery but re-announced himself with 395 runs (SR: 177.13) in 15 outings in 2024. When RCB decided to move on from Faf du Plessis and cast their collective eye inwards for the next leader, their gaze settled firmly on Patidar, him with little leadership experience at any level. What a masterstroke that turned out to be.

The deciding personnel, Kohli certainly among them, were impressed by Patidar's calmness and composure under pressure, the respect he enjoyed within the group and his tactical awareness as well as his ability to think on his feet. To the outside world, it might have seemed an optimistic gamble, but the wisdom of the move to elevate Patidar to the captaincy became increasingly obvious as IPL 2025 unfolded.

Patidar himself has grown in stature, his confidence evidently bolstered by ending RCB's seemingly ceaseless barren run in the tournament. This season, he was at his aggressive best, fusing 501 runs with a staggering strike-rate of 192.69. He set stall as the consummate six-hitter, smacking 42 off them in just 260 deliveries and taking down the most celebrated bowlers, including Kagiso Rabada and Rashid Khan, with a majestic approach bordering on the disdainful. He has remained his own man despite the presence of such gargantuan figures as Kohli and Josh Hazlewood, leading by example and therefore not having to ask of his charges what he himself didn't do.

Around him, the likes of his old mate Venkatesh Iyer, Devdutt Padikkal, Tim

K.R. DEEPAK



David and Krunal Pandya flourished with the bat, thriving on responsibility and role clarity. The aura around this batting group allowed them to carry the gifted but underachieving wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma with no discernible weakening of the team's firepower.

Experience is gold

Such is the lot of the bowlers that they are often relegated to second-class status, but RCB haven't allowed that to come in the way of their appreciation of the other teen-turned-veteran, Bhuvneshwar Kumar. 'Bhuvi' joined the franchise in 2009 when 19 and didn't play a single game but is now the unquestioned leader of a solid bowling group with the peerless Hazlewood as his partner-in-crime and young Rasikh Salam more than holding his own, as evidenced by 19 wickets and an economy of 9.45.

Bhuvneshwar is a shining example of going about his business with little pomp or fanfare, insulated from the reactions around him and sticking to his strengths while constantly evolving as a thinking bowler. He has added subtle nuances to his craft, including an ultra-effective knuckle ball, without sacrificing his core weapon, beautiful swing with the new ball. Bhuvneshwar won the Purple Cap for two years on the bounce, in 2016 and 2017, when he was with Sunrisers.

A decade on from his first taste of the bowling honours, he finished second on the wicket-takers' list (behind Rabada) with 28 scalps, his exceptional economy of 7.95 the ultimate reflection of his outstanding control despite bowling in the most demanding phases of a T20 innings.

When he moved to RCB at the beginning of the 2025 season after 11 years with Sunrisers – he was one of the stars during the latter's title march in 2016 – that too was seen as a punt, much like Patidar's coronation. The previous year, Bhuvneshwar had taken only 11 wickets in 16 games, but RCB were willing to dish out Rs 10.75 crore at the mega auction to acquire his services.

It was money superbly spent; while Hazlewood was the leading wicket-taker for the side in IPL 2025 with 22 scalps from just 12 games, Bhuvneshwar played second fiddle with 17 sticks. The roles were emphatically reversed this time – the Meerut master was head and shoulders above the rest while Hazlewood was somewhat inconsistent, settling for 15 wickets and conceding 9.59 runs per over.

Together, though, this was a fabulous new-ball pairing, sometimes split by New Zealander Jacob Duffy, the T20 specialist who was signed as an insurance for Hazlewood but who had his moments, including a Player of the Match performance on debut in the season-opener against Sunrisers.

Fears that left-arm pacer Yash Dayal, who had a great IPL 2025, would be sorely missed were offset by the emergence of Rasikh as a bankable third, sometimes fourth, seamer, while Krunal's street-smartness and the courage of leg-spinner Suyash Sharma, used sparingly but smartly, meant the spin was in capable hands.

Beyond Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood, RCB didn't have what seemed to be an intimidating attack – look, for instance, at Titans, who boasted Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Jason Holder and Rashid – but then again, when have games and titles been won on paper?

RCB had Kohli and Bhuvneshwar, and a host of other match-winners, ensuring that the whole was significantly more than the sum of their impressive parts.

THE GIST

- Kohli (675) finished as his franchise's leading run-maker and fourth overall in the Orange Cap race
- Bhuvneshwar was second on the wicket-takers' list with 28 scalps, his exceptional economy of 7.95 the ultimate reflection of his outstanding control
- Patidar led from the front. He was at his aggressive best, fusing 501 runs with a staggering strike-rate of 192.69

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Bhuvneshwar has added subtle nuances to his craft, including an ultra-effective knuckle ball, without sacrificing his core weapon, beautiful swing with the new ball

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Ms. Sushma Boppana (Right), CEO of Sri Chaitanya Educational Institutions &
Ms. Seema Boppana (Left), Director of Sri Chaitanya Schools along with JEE ADVANCED 2026 All India Toppers

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127 RANK	128 RANK	139 RANK	144 RANK	150 RANK	152 RANK	153 RANK	154 RANK	161 RANK	172 RANK	175 RANK
M RAMA SANNTHOSH	ABHINAV KHETAN	ADIT BANSAL	S NIKHILESH KESANI	NISKARSH VERMA	YEMIREDDY RUTHWIKA	A VYASA SAI PRANAV	M SUDHEER KUMAR	MOHIT CHANDRA	LANKALWAD MAYURESH	GOEL AARUSH
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181 RANK	193 RANK	200 RANK	209 RANK	211 RANK	217 RANK	219 RANK	220 RANK	222 RANK	224 RANK	
PUJALA GANDEEVA	B VENKATA SATHWIK	K V LIKHITH CHOWDARY	T JASHWANTH REDDY	DIXIT SHREYANSH	CHINTA SATYA SRIRAM	R GOWTHAM KUMAR	D ABHINAVA TEJ	M VAMSIDHAR REDDY	C VENKATA SAI DHANUSH	
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231 RANK	234 RANK	236 RANK	237 RANK	242 RANK	254 RANK	256 RANK	257 RANK	259 RANK	264 RANK	268 RANK
SATVIK VISHNUCHANDAR	ADIRAJ AGARWAL	OM GARG	KARETI UMA MAHESWAR	BALADITHYA K	ADITYA GURURAJ SANKH	ARKA SARKAR	C SATYANARAYANA MURTHY	ANANMAY CHAUHAN	P DEEPAK CHANDRA	C VENKATA SAI AANEESH
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270 RANK	271 RANK	281 RANK	283 RANK	286 RANK	293 RANK	298 RANK	301 RANK	306 RANK	307 RANK	310 RANK
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HT. NO. 265005092	HT. NO. 266055162	HT. NO. 266132679	HT. NO. 266133260	HT. NO. 267024129*	HT. NO. 266057149	HT. NO. 261133089*	HT. NO. 266055272	HT. NO. 266059365	HT. NO. 266056101	HT. NO. 262055046*
311 RANK	316 RANK	317 RANK	325 RANK	326 RANK	327 RANK	330 RANK	334 RANK	336 RANK	338 RANK	339 RANK
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344 RANK	345 RANK	351 RANK	353 RANK	354 RANK	364 RANK	369 RANK	377 RANK	382 RANK	389 RANK	395 RANK
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HT. NO. 266141111	HT. NO. 266060374	HT. NO. 261045114	HT. NO. 266032012	HT. NO. 267013426	HT. NO. 266059177	HT. NO. 266060576	HT. NO. 262108352	HT. NO. 266145373	HT. NO. 266032205	HT. NO. 266060301
419 RANK	435 RANK	444 RANK	456 RANK	462 RANK	470 RANK	473 RANK	475 RANK	486 RANK	491 RANK	492 RANK
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493 RANK	494 RANK	499 RANK	500 RANK	505 RANK	507 RANK	516 RANK	532 RANK	537 RANK	544 RANK	551 RANK
KAPISH MITTAL	DASARI JUGESH KUMAR	P GANESH CHOWDARY	SHASHANK MAURYA	B SREE VINAY REDDY	DEEP JANKIRAM PATIL	K P KUMAR REDDY	PUVVADI BALAJI	BOTSA PRANAY KUMAR	SMAYAN AGARWAL	V SRIRAM HASHWIN
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J BG-BGE

Hoteliers say shortage of commercial cylinders is yet to be addressed

Their statement comes in the wake of the increase in commercial LPG cylinder prices yet again; while a few hoteliers term the hike 'nominal', others say it is disappointing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what has been a regular affair over the last three months, commercial LPG cylinder prices have yet again gone up in Bengaluru. The cost of a commercial LPG cylinder has gone up by ₹46, and is priced ₹3,198.

While a few hoteliers expressed relief, terming this hike as 'nominal', others said it was disappointing, but not surprising. They argued that while the latest hike may appear nominal, the previous hikes were so steep, particularly the last one of ₹993, that hotels are already absorbing the costs, especially as raw material prices are also rising.

"Any hike below ₹100 is nominal. With the trend we were seeing, we were fearing another steep increase, but the latest one is fine. Such increases and decreases happen every month, and this may not burden the industry as such," said P.C. Rao from the Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels' Association.

The hike announced on Monday follows the all-time high increase of ₹993 announced on May 1. Before that, the Union government had announced a hike of ₹115 on March 7, followed by another ₹202 on April 2. The overall increase has been ₹1,356 since March 7. Bharath R. Shetty, owner of a hotel at Majestic, said that while the latest hike is comparatively nominal, the shortage of cylinders is yet to be resolved. Hoteliers are forced to procure cylinders by paying extra money, often as much as 50% over the price stated by the government. Moreover, the discounts that the government had withdrawn citing the West Asia crisis, while assuring that they would be reinstated after two months, are yet to be restored. The Union government used to provide a discount of up to ₹150 on the MRP for bulk commercial LPG cylinder buyers. The discount was withdrawn in March.

Krishna G., another hotelier, said that the price of palm oil and packaging materials have gone up by 40%, and continue to rise. He said that while the latest LPG price hike may be considered minimal, the overall impact is still not favourable for hoteliers, especially small-scale eateries.

The overall increase in the price of a commercial gas cylinder since March 7 is ₹1,356.

Timeline

First hike: March 7	₹115
Second hike: April 2	₹202
Third hike: May 1	₹993
Fourth hike: June 1	₹46
Overall hike: ₹1,356 in over 90 days	

The Union government has withdrawn the discount provided on MRP for bulk commercial LPG cylinder buyers

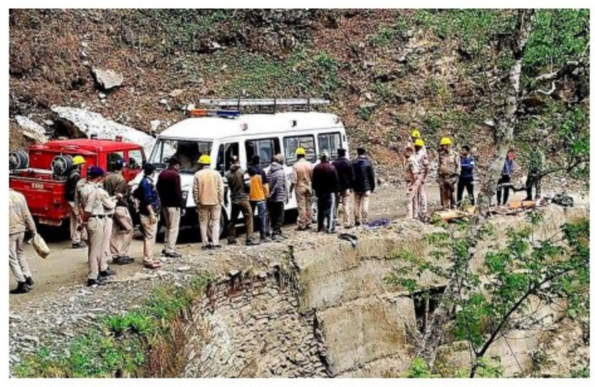
'I came to know about my brother's death only through Google search'

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

"I came to know about my brother's death through his YouTube search history and news reports on Google," said Jayanthashree G., sister of accident victim Karthigeyan P.G., recalling the heartbreaking circumstances under which she learned of the tragedy.

Karthigeyan and his family were among the seven persons who died in an accident when their taxi plunged into a 500-metre-deep gorge on the Bairgarh-Sach-Pass-Killar Road in Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh on the night of May 29. Karthigeyan and Arvind Chandrakar's family travelled from Bengaluru on May 19 to Delhi, Mathura and Himachal Pradesh.

While Karthigeyan and his family are natives of Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu, Arvind and his family are from Chhattisgarh. Karthigeyan ran a food catering business and supplied food to several private schools in Kadugodi in Bengaluru and his wife Manimala was a Mathematics teacher at KSVK school in Channasandra. Their son Nandan was in class VII in Chrysalis High in Kadugodi. Arvind worked in a multinational company in Bengaluru. He was accompanied by his wife Prachi, two sons Darsh and Akshad, who also studied in the same school.


Karthigeyan and his family were among the seven persons who died in an accident when their taxi plunged into a 500-metre-deep gorge in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh on the night of May 29.

Taekwondo event

Both families went to Dalhousie in Himachal as their children were participating in the National Taekwondo Competition to represent their school.

Ms. Jayanthashree said, "My brother and his wife Manimala and son Nandan left for Delhi on May 19. They visited various places like Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, etc. and then travelled to Mathura. Both the families travelled together all along as their children were participating in the National Taekwondo Competition that was organised in Dalhousie in Himachal Pradesh. The competition was organised on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and on the weekend, they planned to go on a trek to Sach Pass in Chamba district."

Ms. Jayanthashree added, "The last I spoke to my brother was on Friday morning, and he had only mentioned that he was planning to go on a trek along with his family. He wasn't sure where exactly they wanted to go. Later, when I did not get any calls from them for more than a day, I logged into my brother's YouTube account and the search history. His search history showed Sach Pass, Chamba district. That's how I figured out they had left for trekking to this place. I suspected something was wrong when the contact number was not reachable. That's when I randomly typed Chamba district, sach pass incident. It was shocking for me to know they had met with an accident. Initially, the news reports showed no names of the deceased. Later, I came across the names of people who were killed in the accident, and my brother's family was one of them."

Ms. Jayanthashree stated that it was difficult for them to contact officials from Himachal Pradesh.

"Even the local officials didn't know there was an accident. It was only when the owner of the car rental company checked for the location of his taxi driver. The GPS was indicating the car stranded in a place for a long time. We reached out to a bureaucrat working in Delhi through one of

Public prosecutor held for accepting bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A public prosecutor attached to the City Civil and Sessions Court in Bengaluru was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹5,000 from a complainant on Monday.

The accused, Savitha Naveen Patil, 55, serving as a public prosecutor in Bengaluru, allegedly demanded a bribe to submit objections in a case registered at the Chennamanakere Achukattu Police Station.

The complainant, Manjunath, 40, a resident of Banashankari, approached the Lokayukta, alleging that the prosecutor had demanded ₹5,000 to carry out the official work.

Based on the complaint, the Lokayukta Police registered a case. During the operation, the accused was allegedly caught while taking the bribe amount and was arrested.

State mango output falls by 5L tonnes this year due to climate extremities

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

Karnataka, which has produced around 15 lakh tonnes of mangoes in recent years, is staring at a drop of 5 lakh tonnes this year, bringing the total down to 10 lakh tonnes, according to the Horticulture Department. This has resulted in major losses for farmers, with key mango-growing regions such as Kolar, Bengaluiru South, Chickballapur and surrounding areas being the worst affected.

Meanwhile, officials of the Horticulture Department and Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Managing Director T.R. Vedamurthy attributed the low yield of the seasonal fruit to climate change and its impact.

Flowering process

Mr. Vedamurthy said: "Mango is cultivated in about 1.45 lakh hectares in Karnataka. The yield has been low this season due to extreme weather conditions. A delay in the flowering process led to mangoes being harvested at different stages across regions. In regions surrounding Kolar, Bengaluru South and Chickballapur, harvesting, which usually begins in early May, is still under way. This has led to a delay in organising the mango mela at Lalbagh, which will now be held from June 4 instead of May."

As per a study by the Karnataka State Mango Development Board, a prolonged cold wave prevailed in several mango-growing regions during the flowering period. Night temperatures remained below 10°C for an extended period, adversely affecting flower development. As a result, the proportion of hermaphrodite flowers declined significantly, leading to poor fruit set of less than 20%.

Officials attributed the low yield of the seasonal fruit to climate change and its impact. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Expected production

Alphonso	10%–15%
Mallika	50%–60%
Totapuri	60%–70%
Neelam	60%–70%
Sindhura	50%–60%
Benishan (Banganapalli/ Safeda)	40%–50%
Raspuri	50%–60%
Kesar	60%–70%

the case this year. Another challenge has been the thrips pest, which attacks trees and feeds on the leaves, flowers and fruits."

Mr. Chinnappa further highlighted that mango melas have been helpful to farmers as they can sell mangoes directly to customers without any interference of a middleman. Another farmer, Thotli Ramesh, expressed his displeasure over the financial and crop loss this year. "There is 70% loss in the yield of mangoes that I have grown this year."

S.V. Hittalamani, noted horticulturist and former Additional Director (Fruits) of the Karnataka Horticulture Department, said: "Mango is a tropical and subtropical crop that can be grown in humid regions such as the Western Ghats and coastal Karnataka, as well as in arid regions like north Karnataka. However, cultivation in Kolar, Chickballapur and Bengaluru South has always been risky due to frequent cyclones from the Bay of Bengal. During the flowering season in November-December, these regions are often hit by cyclones, leading to pest attacks that damage flowers. This results in crop loss and delays in fruiting."

Emphasising how farmers in Kolar have incurred huge losses this year due to extremely high temperatures as well as abrupt hailstorms and heavy rains, Neelaturu Chinappa Reddy, president of the Karnataka State Mango Growers' Welfare Association in Kolar, said: "High temperatures and low moisture have affected the quality of mangoes this year. Farmers have incurred losses of over 70% in both yield and income. Mangoes are usually juicy and sweet, but that is not

Mango and jackfruit mela from June 4

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Horticulture and the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited are jointly organising a mango and jackfruit mela at the Lalbagh Botanical Gardens here from June 4 to 30.

The event will showcase nearly 65 varieties of mangoes and 15 varieties of jackfruit. In addition, around 18 to 20 varieties of mangoes.

A total of 168 stalls for mango growers and 17 stalls for jackfruit growers have been allocated at the mela.

During the mango mela organised in Cubbon Park from May 8 to May 17, farmers sold around 55 to 57 tonnes of mangoes.

> Cultivation in Kolar, Chickballapur and Bengaluru South has always been risky due to frequent cyclones from the Bay of Bengal
>
> **S.V. HITTALAMANI**
> Former Additional Director (Fruits), Horticulture Department

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Aarohana – 2026 An Annual Day celebration at Dr ACS College of Engineering

Dr. ACS College of Engineering celebrated its Annual Day, "Aarohana - 2026," with a vibrant showcase of student talent, creativity, and cultural spirit. The event was attended by the institution's leadership and featured actress Ragini Dwivedi as Chief Guest, who inspired students to pursue their goals with determination and confidence. The celebration was presided over by the esteemed leadership of the institution, including Chairman Dr. A.C. Shanmugam along with other distinguished dignitaries whose presence added prestige to the occasion. Highlights included a fashion show, dance and music performances, and the recognition of outstanding student achievements. The celebration reflected the college's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals through creativity, leadership, teamwork, and academic excellance.

25th Graduation Day 2026 celebration at Soundarya Educational Institute

At the Graduation Day 2026 ceremony of Soundarya educational institutions, P. N. Desai, Chairperson of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission and former Judge of the High Court of Karnataka emphasized the importance of human rights awareness, social justice, and constitutional values, urging graduates to become responsible citizens. A total of 356 students received degrees, with top achievers being honoured. Guest speaker Griffith David encouraged students to view graduation as the start of a new journey and pursue their ambitions with confidence, determination, and lifelong learning.

AMC Educational Institutions organized the "AMC Open Day" at their campus in Bannerghatta.

AMC Educational Institutions hosted AMC Open Day at its Bannerghatta campus, providing parents and students an opportunity to explore the institution's facilities and academic environment. The event featured student projects in Engineering, Management, Computer Applications, Biotechnology, AI, IoT, and Data Science, highlighting innovation and technical skills. K. R. Paramahamsa, Chairman of AMC Educational Institution emphasized the event's role in showcasing student talent and campus resources, while Rahul Kalluri, Executive Vice President encouraged students to embrace innovation, creativity, and emerging technologies to solve real-world challenges.

The International School Bangalore (TISB) celebrates its 25th Anniversary and the Graduation Ceremony of the Class of 2026

The International school Bangalore (TISB) celebrated its 25th Anniversary and the Graduation Ceremony of the Class of 2026, attended by Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot as Chief Guest. The graduating class achieved over 843 university offers from 228 universities across 15 countries, including prestigious institutions such as Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, University of Pennsylvania, University of Cambridge, and Columbia University. Since its founding, TISB has graduated more than 2,000 students, securing placements worldwide and earning nearly $200 million in scholarships and grants. During the event, Governor Gehlot encouraged students to lead with integrity, innovation, and compassion. TISB Founder and Chairman K. P. Gopalkrishna highlighted the school's commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and character development. A key highlight

was the launch of Journey of a Visionary: Legacy of an Educationist, a book celebrating Dr. Gopalkrishna's contributions to education through TISB and the NPS-NAFL group of schools. Bindu Hari Vice Chair Person and Director,TISB praised the Class of 2026 for excelling across academics, leadership, sports, arts, entrepreneurship, and community service. She highlighted their maturity, meaningful contributions, and growth into thoughtful, principled, caring, and reflective individuals who have made TISB proud. The event marked both the achievements of the graduating class and the enduring legacy of one of India's leading educational institutions.

The genie of synthetic biology is out, and with it comes power and peril

The quest to understand the universe releases the genie from the lamp: kept inside, it is of no use and leashes human thought and creativity; released but unregulated, it risks creating new and unforeseen problems; released and used wisely, the applications are many and valuable

K. VijayRaghavan

Life chemistry: The exquisite detail that genomes provide complements the fossil record where it is available — but it also tells us the history of life where no fossil record exists. No social history of humans can provide this degree of precision and accuracy over such an extended period. RETHA FERGUSON/PEXELS

For the first time in about four billion years of life on the earth, one species is learning not just to read the book of life but to write new versions.

Humans' quest to understand and explain the natural world has always carried a double consequence: every success also enhances our ability to change the world. By understanding how diseases act, we create drugs and vaccines that change the prevalence of infectious agents. The elimination of smallpox is one example. Understanding the basis of some hereditary disorders has meant that dietary management can help those affected to live full lives. Phenylketonuria, a condition in which the body cannot process a common amino acid, phenylalanine, is one such example.

Verbosity in genes

At the core of our efforts to understand and explain the extraordinary diversity of forms and functions of life lies one molecule: deoxyribonucleic acid, popularly known by its abbreviation, DNA. DNA resides in cells, the unit of construction of our bodies – indeed of any organism – and we humans are made up of trillions of cells.

The DNA in a cell is called its genome. The linear thread of DNA that makes up the genome has an alphabet of four molecules, denoted by the letters 'A', 'T', 'G', and 'C'. A genome can have thousands of genes, and through the specific ordering of these letters, each gene can encode a specific protein. Proteins in their various forms make up, or help manufacture, all that is needed for each cell to perform its unique function.

If we were to look simultaneously at a bacterium, a fruit fly, a mouse, and a human, and think about their varying complexity, we would be tempted to hypothesise that the human has many thousands of times more genes than the fly or the bacterium. After all, we are a far more complex organism than a tiny, unicellular bacterium.

However, the commonly studied bacterium *Escherichia coli* has about 4,300 genes. The fruit fly, about 17,000. The mouse, about 21,000. And the human, about 22,000. There is only a fivefold difference in gene number between a bacterium and a human. The mouse has more protein-coding genes than us, and a water flea, *Daphnia*, has about 31,000 genes, more than either us or the mouse.

Verbosity in genes, as in conversation, is not a measure of complexity. Just as one can convey something complex and information-dense in a short, non-redundant paragraph, it is how, when, how much, and where in the cell gene products are expressed that determines complexity. While genes encode proteins, they also have DNA sequences involved in regulating when, where, and to what extent genes are expressed. These regulatory regions are locations where other specific proteins, called transcription factors bind, to turn genes 'on' and 'off'. These regulatory proteins are themselves encoded by genes.

Three extraordinary insights

The decreasing cost and increasing speed of DNA sequencing means that we can, today, sequence the genome of any organism we choose. At the start of the Human Genome Project, sequencing a human genome took more than a decade, cost close to $3 billion, and involved thousands of scientists across about 20 countries. Today this is possible in a few hours, at a cost of a few hundred dollars, in a small laboratory. As our computational capacity also increases, so does our ability to study the genomes we have sequenced. The growing bank of genome sequences across organisms offers three extraordinary insights into all life on the earth.

First, genome sequences taken together give us a history of life on the planet, the relatedness of organisms, and how the tree of life branched in different ways. The exquisite detail that genomes provide complements the fossil record where it is available – but it also tells us the history of life where no fossil record exists. No social history of humans can provide this degree of precision and accuracy over such an extended period.

Second, when we examine genomes in the context of how an organism (bacterium, plant or animal) functions in its environment, we learn how they are adapted. Genes, famously described as selfish, ensure their own propagation by using their host organism's survival as a vehicle for their transmission. By studying variations in genes, we learn how mutations are selected as organisms adapt to their environments. Human populations that today carry genes predisposing them to type II diabetes are typically descended from groups that lived in environments where food supply rose and fell cyclically over long intervals. In today's environment of abundant food, this genetic inheritance leads to disease.

Third, just as with DNA sequencing, we are rapidly accumulating detailed information on all aspects of the cellular environment across a variety of organisms – which genes are expressed, where their products are localised, what they do, and so on. When taken together, this detailed 'cell map' can give us a picture of all the complexity within a cell in each organism we study. When gathered over the entire life of a cell or organism – and we are far from this stage of data collection – the volume and complexity of data to be analysed is mind-boggling. Yet the tools for storing, analysing, and interrogating such 'big data' are also growing.

While scepticism remains, this may therefore not only be a feasible project in theory, but also one in practice. We already see early glimpses of such comprehensive pictures appearing from diverse attempts around the world. From all of this, one can expect a substantial advance in our understanding of how life in all its diversity came about, how organisms are made, and how they work. New hypotheses will be formed and tested, and new fundamental knowledge and applications will appear.

Never before seen

With this knowledge will come expanded power in synthetic biology. Our understanding of how genes, cells, and environments collaborate to make organisms has already enabled us to engineer nature in many ways. But what we can currently do with genetic engineering is modest compared to the potential from new avenues now opening. Engineering cells and organisms not just at the level of one or a few genes, but on a genome-wide scale, is becoming possible. These technologies will become more accurate, less expensive, and more accessible.

With access to computing power and memory that AI provides, it is possible to analyse cellular and environmental information and design sections of genomes or entire genomes with the desired properties on our computers

With access to computing power and memory that AI provides, it is possible to analyse cellular and environmental information and design sections of genomes or entire genomes, with the desired properties on our computers.

Today, the predictability of what happens when such designs are implemented still remains low: cells and organisms are notorious for resisting simplistic *in silico* predictions. But this too will change, through a combination of analytical and experimental work. Designer cells that make chemicals, drugs, materials, and fuels are already with us but they will become ubiquitous and far broader in their uses than what we see today.

It is not only cells for biotechnological applications that will be created, often making products never before seen in nature. Creating complex new forms of multicellular organisms, plants or animals, is also a real possibility. Replacing the genome of a cell with one designed and manufactured by humans is now feasible for small genomes and will soon be possible for larger ones.

In 2010, American scientist J. Craig Venter (1946-2026) and his team chemically synthesised a complete bacterial genome and introduced it into a bacterial cell whose native DNA had been removed. This was, at a first approximation, digitally created life. They watermarked their creation by encoding three quotations into non-coding regions of the synthetic DNA – a biological 'cipher' in which letters were mapped to codons: James Joyce, from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*: "To live, to err, to fall, to triumph, to recreate life out of life"; Richard Feynman: "What I cannot build, I do not understand"; and J. Robert Oppenheimer: "See things not as they are, but as they might be."

While we are currently limited by the speed and cost of genome-wide synthesis, this will change. It will then be possible to create large genomes, introduce them into defined cellular environments we construct, or into fertilised eggs whose own genomes have been removed.

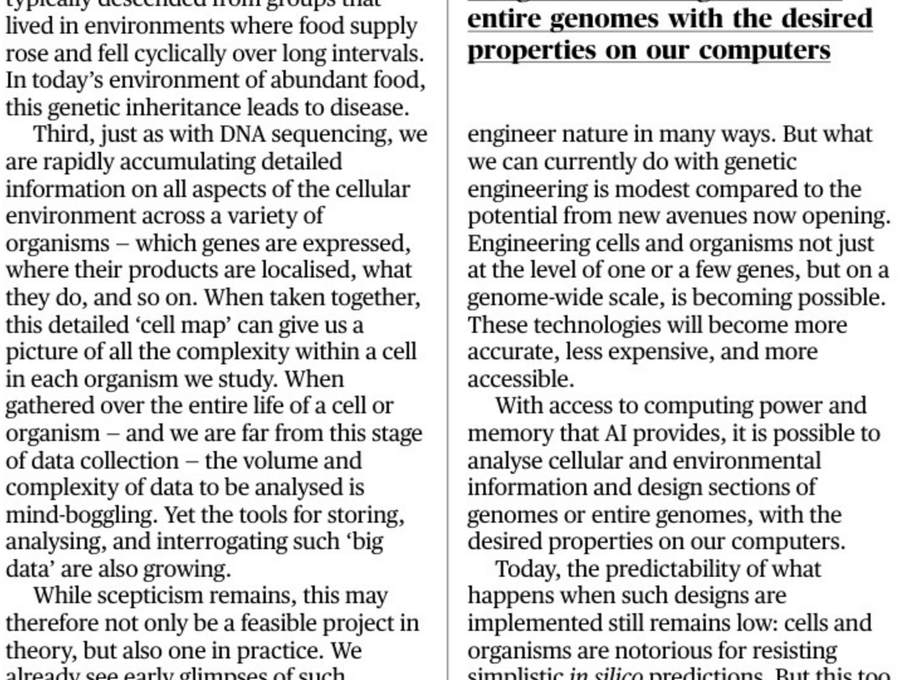
With great power

Complementing this top-down approach, which draws on billions of years of genomic history to create new forms of life, there is a bottom-up alternative. Pioneered by Jack Szostak and others, this approach aims to synthesise a primordial cell from scratch, modelling what the earliest living systems may have looked like before the first genome was ever written. Mr. Szostak's laboratory at the University of Chicago builds protocells – fatty-acid vesicles that can spontaneously form closed membranes, encapsulate RNA, and, in the right conditions, copy that RNA and divide. The aim is to solve the great mystery of how life first originated from non-living chemistry. In working towards this, we too will develop the power to create new and complex self-replicating biological systems.

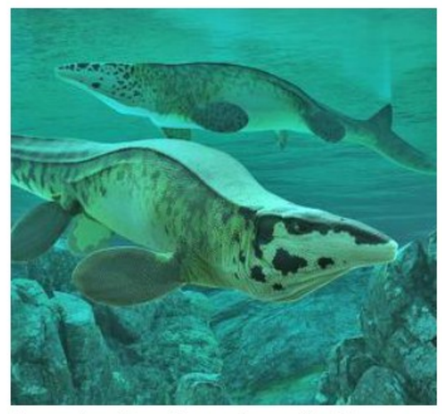
All of this raises the 'genie conundrum' that humanity has grappled with across the centuries. Our quest to understand the universe releases the genie from the lamp. Kept inside, the genie is of no use and, more relevant, we leash human thought and creativity. Released but unregulated, we risk creating new and unforeseen problems. Released and used wisely, the applications are many and valuable.

These are challenges that regulators face not only in biology but in other domains too: how does one regulate chemistry or nuclear power, for example? But the engineering of life has a feature that the engineering of a spaceship or a nuclear plant does not: the ability to convert information into a self-replicating product. Here, we must 'see things not as they are, but as they might be'. Both for what must be done, and for what we must refrain from doing.

(K. VijayRaghavan is DAE-Homi Bhabha Chair, TIFR-National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru. vijay@ncbs.res.in)



Building blocks: The growing bank of genome sequences across organisms offers extraordinary insights into all life on the earth. REUTERS



A reconstruction of the marine reptile Tylosaurus rex in the Cretaceous-era Western Interior Seaway of North America. REUTERS

Fearsome dinosaur-era reptile was T. rex of the sea

Reuters

Tyrannosaurus rex was a huge land predator during the twilight of the age of dinosaurs. But it was not the only *T. rex* that terrorised the Cretaceous Period. There also was a marine reptile named *Tylosaurus rex* – the *T. rex* of the sea – that rivalled its land counterpart in size and ferocity.

Scientists say they have identified *Tylosaurus rex* as a distinct species after a wide-ranging examination of previously discovered fossils. They made the judgment based on its enormous size, fine serrations along the edges of its teeth to cut flesh more efficiently, heavy-duty musculature of the jaws and neck for subduing large prey, and certain other anatomical nuances. Roughly 66 million years ago, *Tyrannosaurus rex* roamed the land in Western North America.

The seagoing T. rex with a streamlined body, elongated snout with large teeth, four large paddle-like flippers, and a powerful tail, rivalling its land counterpart in size and ferocity

Approximately 80 million years ago, *Tylosaurus rex* prowled an inland sea that at the time split North America in two. The seagoing *T. rex* had a streamlined body, elongated snout with large teeth, four large paddle-like flippers, and a powerful tail. The genus 'Tylosaurus' has been known since fossils were first unearthed during the 19th century. A handful of species are recognised, including *Tylosaurus proriger*. A genus is a grouping of closely related species sharing similar characteristics. For example, lions and tigers are from the same genus but represent different species.

The largest *Tyrannosaurus rex* specimen, nicknamed Sue and held at the Field Museum in Chicago, is about 12.2 m long. The largest *Tylosaurus rex* specimen, nicknamed Bunker and held at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, is about 13.2 m long. Bunker previously had been identified as *Tylosaurus proriger*, but possessed the suite of traits that assigned it to *Tylosaurus rex*, the researchers said. "The skull alone is as long as I am tall – 5-foot-7 inches (1.7 m)," said palaeontologist Amelia Zietlow of the History Museum at the Castle in Appleton, Wisconsin, lead author of the study published in the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*.

Tylosaurus rex is a member of a group of marine reptiles with a global distribution called mosasaurs that evolved from land-living lizards to become apex marine predators during the final roughly 30 million years of the age of dinosaurs. Today's monitor lizards, including the Komodo dragon – the largest present-day lizard at up to 3 m long – are perhaps among the closest living relatives of *Tylosaurus rex*. Most of the fossils identified as *Tylosaurus rex* come from north and central Texas, though Bunker came from Kansas. The holotype specimen – the fossil used to formally name a species – is at the Perot Museum.

The new species name, meaning "king of the tylosaurs," was a nod to *Tyrannosaurus rex* – "an incredible animal itself, obviously," Ms. Zietlow said. The two *T. rexes* were not contemporaries, though forerunners of the giant dinosaur lived at the same time as the giant mosasaur. *Tylosaurus rex* was among the largest of the mosasaurs, alongside the likes of *Mosasaurus hoffmanni*.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Rain exposes Bengaluru's pothole problem yet again

While GBA has undertaken pothole-filling drives, people continue to struggle with damaged roads

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Potholes and battered stretches at Srinivasapura Cross, Banashankari 6th Stage, on Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

A damaged stretch posing a threat to commuters near Horamavu main road in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

With Bengaluru receiving heavy rains over the past week, potholes have resurfaced across the city, with commuters saying they are left guessing where the road ends and where drains begin. The impact has been severe in high footfall, congested and low-lying areas.

In localities such as Chickpet and K.R. Market, where business activities continue throughout the day, overflowing storm-water drains and flooded roads have made movement difficult. Traders told *The Hindu* that the transporters are reluctant to enter these areas, while even two-wheelers have been struggling to navigate roads flooded with drain water.

Bahadur Maan, a trader in Mamulpet, said the condition of the area is only deteriorating, alleging that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has largely neglected the locality. "Whatever little progress happens is hindered by the rains. Continuous movement of vehicles, poor garbage collection and drainage issues only add to the problem," he said.

The situation is similar in several other parts of the city such as Outer Ring Road, around Silk Board Junction, Varthur-Panathur stretch, besides other areas. While the GBA has undertaken pothole-filling drives across its jurisdiction, motorists and commuters continue to struggle with damaged roads and flooded stretches.

A resident of Frazer Town said multiple civic works undertaken by both the civic body and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) had already damaged roads in the area, with the rain worsening the situation.

Large potholes have also been reported along several stretches in areas such as Kamaraj Road, Byatarayanapura and Lavelle Road.

This comes despite GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao directing officials to conduct inspections, ensure PRAHARI vehicle parade (a monsoon emergency preparedness initiative), in their respective jurisdictions, and keep emergency response systems prepared to tackle heavy rainfall, flooding and related civic challenges.

When asked about the current situation and the measures planned, the GBA officials said pothole filling is not a one-time activity and that the involvement of multiple agencies, coupled with continuous rainfall, has disrupted progress in several locations.

GBA's move draws criticism online

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While Bengaluru's roads are riddled with potholes and several footpaths remain broken, encroached upon or flooded, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has encouraged residents to walk short distances instead of taking autorickshaws, with the move drawing criticism online.

The civic body has recently launched the "#1KmChallenge", urging Bengalureans to consider walking for trips shorter than one km as a way to reduce pollution, ease traffic congestion and improve personal health. Through a social media campaign, the GBA argued that many short-distance trips that are currently made by autorickshaw could instead be completed on foot, contributing to a greener and healthier city.

However, the appeal quickly triggered a wave of responses from residents, who questioned the practicality of promoting walking when pedestrian infrastructure across large parts of the city remains inadequate. Others argued the civic authorities should focus on creating safe, accessible and uninterrupted pedestrian pathways.

Two workers killed in wall collapse at construction site

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after two rain-related wall collapse tragedies in Bengaluru claimed eight lives, another fatal incident has occurred amid intermittent rains. Two workers were killed after a wall collapsed on them on Sunday, the third such rain-triggered incident in the city within a week.

The incident comes in the wake of the collapse of the compound wall of Bowring Hospital, which killed seven people during heavy rains. Subsequently, on May 29, an autorickshaw driver lost his life when the compound wall of a club in Vijayanagar caved in. The two victims have been identified as Dyamappa and Babulal, both construction workers. According to the police, rains over the past two days had weakened an under construction wall. When workers resumed construction activity, the wall suddenly gave way and collapsed.

The two workers were trapped under the debris and sustained fatal injuries. Despite rescue efforts, both died at the scene. The construction site belonged to a person identified as Patel. The bodies have been shifted to the Nelamangala Government Hospital for post-mortem. A case of death due to negligence has been registered at the Madanayakanahalli Police Station against the owner and site engineer. Further investigation is under way.

With the latest incident claiming two more lives, concerns are mounting over the safety of ageing and weakened structures across the city.

The recurring incidents have raised questions about preparedness and structural safety measures as Bengaluru continues to witness intense rains.

Man sits on road in protest after traffic halted for Governor's convoy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A man sitting in protest on Old Airport Road in Bengaluru on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

High drama prevailed on Old Airport Road on Sunday when a man sat in the middle of the road in protest, after traffic was halted to let Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's convoy pass.

The incident drew the attention of motorists and security personnel deployed along the route.

According to eyewitnesses, the man became agitated after the traffic was halted for the movement of the Governor's convoy. Claiming that his wife was pregnant and unwell, he got out of his vehicle and sat in the middle of the road, refusing to move despite repeated requests from police personnel.

"My wife is pregnant. We also have work to do, don't we?" the man was heard telling a traffic inspector in the viral video.

When asked to move aside, he questioned the necessity of stopping public movement for VIP convoys. "Why have you blocked the signal? Just because the Governor is a VIP, does that mean we are nobody?" he asked.

The police personnel attempted to pacify the protester. However, he repeatedly refused.

After several minutes of heated exchanges, the police managed to remove the man shortly before the Governor's convoy passed through the stretch.

While no case was immediately reported, the incident has once again brought the issue of balancing security requirements with public convenience into sharp focus.

100 vehicles seized as youngsters perform dangerous stunts during IPL 2026 victory celebrations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traffic congestion on M.G. Road as fans celebrated the victory of Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Indian Premier League 2026 finals, in Bengaluru, on Sunday.

The Bengaluru police seized around 100 vehicles involved in dangerous stunts and took preventive action against revellers during celebrations following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) victory in the IPL 2026 tournament on Sunday, officials said.

To maintain law and order and prevent any untoward incidents, the entire Bengaluru police force, along with additional platoons of reserve personnel, was deployed across the city. Senior officers, led by Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, conducted extensive patrols to supervise security arrangements and monitor sensitive locations.

Police said several groups of youngsters were found performing wheelie, reckless driving manoeuvres and other dangerous stunts on city roads as part of the celebrations. As many as 100 vehicles were seized for traffic and public safety violations.

Authorities also took preventive measures against individuals attempting to create disturbances. More than 500 mobile phones were reportedly seized from revellers at various locations as police sought to curb the circulation of provocative or misleading videos on social media that could potentially escalate tensions.

"We have seized mobile phones from people who were attempting to record and upload videos that could aggravate the situation," a senior police officer said. In one incident, a man allegedly under the influence of alcohol was seen dancing shirtless in front of a Hoysala patrol vehicle. Police personnel intervened and dispersed him before the situation could attract larger crowds. As part of precautionary measures, police also advised the management of Royal Challengers Bengaluru against organising any public celebration events in the city without adequate security arrangements.

Station House Officers across jurisdictions were directed to keep anti-social elements under close watch and initiate strict action in the event of any violations. Additional surveillance was maintained at major junctions, commercial centres and areas known for large gatherings.

Despite a few isolated incidents, police said the celebrations remained largely peaceful and under control due to extensive deployment and preventive policing.

"Barring a few stray incidents, the situation remained under control throughout the celebrations," an official said.

Bengaluru North Division police seized 75 vehicles during a special enforcement drive conducted on the night of the IPL final on May 31, targeting riders performing stunts on the road, traffic violators, and suspicious vehicles, across 13 police station limits.

The operation was launched as part of enhanced security arrangements for the high-profile cricket match. Senior police officers and personnel were deployed on patrol duty, while check-posts (naka points) were set up at strategic locations to monitor vehicle movement, and maintain public order.

During the drive, police checked vehicles involved in performing wheelie, triple riding, and other traffic violations. A total of 75 vehicles were seized, including 71 two-wheelers, three autorickshaws, and one car. Officials said legal action would be initiated against the riders and drivers in accordance with the law.

Police said that the crackdown was aimed at ensuring public safety, and preventing reckless driving and other unlawful activities during the IPL final celebrations.

IPL finals was taken away from us: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing Gujarat of using influence and taking the IPL finals held on Sunday away from Bengaluru, Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said that necessary preparations are under way to ensure it does not happen again. Speaking to reporters here, he said, "The IPL final was supposed to be held in Bengaluru. The Karnataka government had given permission for it. However, Gujarat used influence and took the match away from us."

"Our sports fans may have been wronged, but the team (RCB) representing our State played well and won. They have made all of us proud," he said.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Percentage increase in Gross GST collections in May

3.2 in per cent. Gross GST collections rose to over ₹1.94 lakh crore in May on higher supplies of goods and services, and collection from imports, government data showed. Gross GST collection was ₹1.88 lakh crore in May 2025. GST refunds grew 2.6% to ₹27,281 crore. After adjusting refunds, net GST revenues in May rose 3.3% to about ₹1.67 lakh crore. PTI

Value of loans sanctioned to MSMEs under ECLGS

35,000 in ₹ crore. Banks have sanctioned ₹35,000 crore loans under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to MSMEs and industries impacted by the West Asia conflict. The scheme aimed at providing additional credit flow of ₹2.55 lakh crore for airlines hit by the ongoing geopolitical crisis. PTI

Value of India's seafood exports in 2025-26

8.46 in $ billion. India's seafood exports hit a record high in both volume and value during 2025-26, reaching 19,72,018 metric tonnes worth ₹73,890.46 crore ($8.46 billion), despite global challenges, MPEDA Chairman P Jawahar said on Monday. The U.S. and China remained the top importers of Indian seafood during the fiscal year. PTI

Number of drones fired by Russia at Ukraine in May

8,150 Russia fired a record number of long-range drones at Ukraine in May, an analysis of Ukrainian air force data showed on Monday, as Kyiv appealed to allies for air defence support. Russia launched 8,150 long-range drones and more than 200 missiles during the month, beating the previous record set one month earlier. AFP

Cases of Ebola reported in Congo's ongoing outbreak

282 At least 282 confirmed cases of Ebola have now been reported in Congo's ongoing outbreak, the central African nation said late on Sunday. The outbreak remains focused in Congo's eastern Ituri province, where 264 of the cases have been recorded, Congo's Ministry of Health said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why do cities get polluted in summer?

How is summer air pollution different from that in winter? Why does ozone rise in hot weather? What drives PM10 spikes in Indian cities? How do dust storms affect air quality? How do human activities worsen summer air pollution? What can cities do to combat summer air pollution?

EXPLAINER

Mohammad Rafiuddin
Sneha Maria Ignatious

The story so far:
In March, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) revoked all curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), signalling the end of the winter air pollution in Delhi.

A month later, as temperatures rose, it reimposed Stage 1 of the GRAP to combat summer air pollution. It was briefly revoked and reimposed again in May, while North India was reeling under heatwaves.

Why are cities witnessing pollution episodes during summer?
Delhi and the Indo-Gangetic plain are known for winter smog because low temperatures, low wind speeds, and their basin-like topography trap pollutants close to the ground.

Summer brings stronger winds, occasional thunderstorms that wash out pollutants, and warmer temperatures that allow pollutants to mix higher in the atmosphere. Despite such meteorological favours, Delhi has already witnessed 54 days between 1 April and 31 May 2026 where daily average PM10 levels exceeded the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 100 ug/m3. At the same time, on 40 days, at least one Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) in the city recorded a breach in the hourly ozone standard of 180 ug/m3.

Unlike most headlines, this is not the story of Delhi alone. Other large cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kolkata also recorded pollution spikes in the same period this summer, with PM10 and ozone levels going above the national standards to varying degrees. These spikes were shaped by local sources such as vehicular emissions, road dust, construction activity, industrial emissions, and dust from local storms. Mumbai, for instance, has been recording high PM10 and ozone levels over the last few years due to construction activity, dust, and traffic. While Chennai's PM10 breaches are occasional, its high vehicular density and hot weather also make it an ozone hotspot.

How is summer air pollution different from that in winter?
While winter pollution is dominated by finer PM2.5 particles, summer air pollution is driven by the coarser PM10 and ozone.

Vehicles, industries, waste burning, agricultural residue burning, construction sites, and broken roads remain year-round sources of pollution. Winter adds biomass burning for heating. Summer brings in dust storms that hike PM10 levels, while heat and sunlight catalyse ozone formation.

Why does ozone rise in hot weather?
Ozone is not emitted directly from a tailpipe or chimney. It forms when nitrogen oxides (NOx), largely from vehicles and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, paints, and other sources, react under strong sunlight. Hotter, sunnier days therefore create favourable conditions for ozone formation, which, along with particulate matter, could cause respiratory illnesses.

Summer brings in dust storms that hike PM10 levels, while heat and sunlight catalyse ozone formation. PTI

THE GIST

- Summer air pollution is driven largely by PM10 and ozone, with several Indian cities recording repeated breaches of national standards.
- Dust storms, construction activity, road dust, vehicular emissions and industrial pollution contribute to pollution episodes during the hotter months.
- Heat and strong sunlight promote ozone formation, underlining the need for year-round air quality management rather than a focus on winter smog alone

The summer burden

Dust, heat, and urban emissions continue to drive pollution episodes across Indian cities even during summer

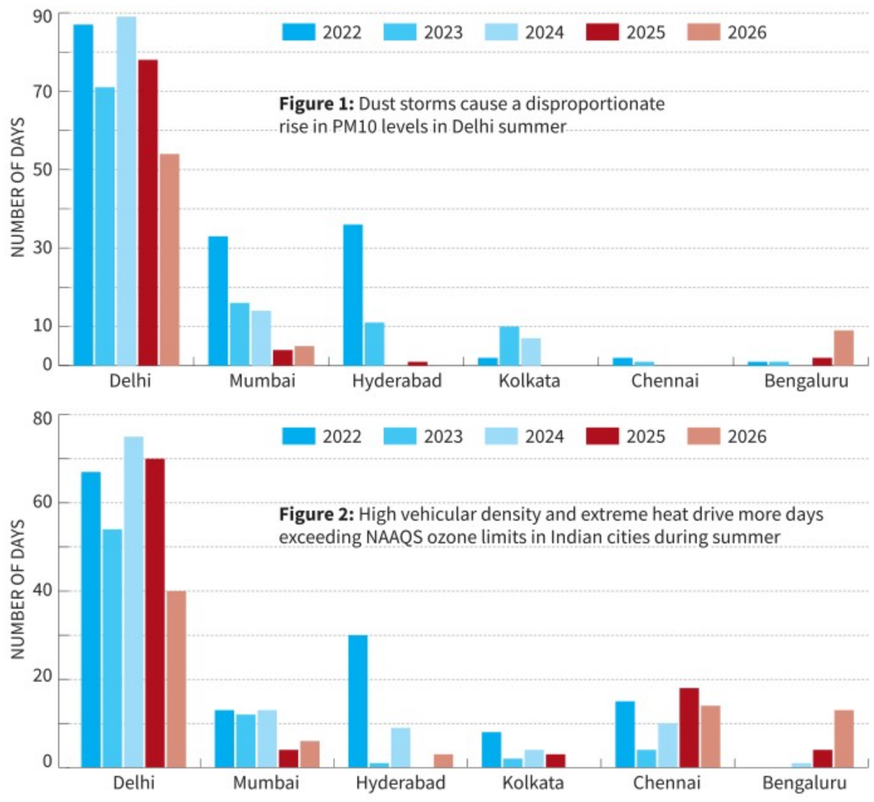

Figure 1: Dust storms cause a disproportionate rise in PM10 levels in Delhi summer

Figure 2: High vehicular density and extreme heat drive more days exceeding NAAQS ozone limits in Indian cities during summer

Note: The data for 2026 is from 1 April to 31 May 2026. For other years, the data is from 1 April to 30 June.
SOURCE: CEEW ANALYSIS OF CAAQMS DATA

What causes India's PM10 to spike?
Hot conditions over the Indian subcontinent create a low-pressure area that extends towards Iran. Its interaction with surrounding high-pressure areas produces hot, windy conditions. These winds could stir up dust storms, including hot winds called loo, which carry dust from West Asia and the Thar Desert across India towards the Bay of Bengal. Such episodes could elevate PM10 levels for days, as seen during the severe North Indian dust storms of 2018.

The Indian subcontinent also experiences shorter, localised dust storms known as 'andhi' that usually subside within hours. These form when strong downward-moving air associated with thunderstorms hits the ground, lifts loose dust, and carries it at high speed. While loo-type dust storms are common in North India, cities like Mumbai and Hyderabad generally face dusty episodes due to local thunderstorms.

Human activity worsens this natural dust load. Construction and demolition work often resumes after the more stringent winter GRAP restrictions are lifted. Without adequate site-level dust control, these activities add to PM10 levels. Vehicles moving over broken roads also further resuspend loose, dry dust into the air in the dry summer months.

What can cities do to combat summer air pollution?
While natural sources of dust cannot be controlled, they can be predicted. Delhi's Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) was created in response to severe dust storms in 2018 and smog episodes of the previous years, and now runs year-round. It has since been extended to other cities such as Jaipur and Mumbai, and provides forecasts of multiple pollutants several days in advance. Its bulletin provides detailed weather information for Delhi and three-day Air Quality Index forecasts for 140 Indian cities.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also publishes national weather forecast bulletins several times a day. Authorities should use these systems to issue local alerts on dust storms, ozone, and poor air quality so citizens can reduce exposure.

For controllable non-natural sources, enforcement matters. Construction sites need active dust management even outside winter.

A study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) found that simply reducing heavy-vehicle movement at construction sites can lower local particulate matter levels. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s Air Quality Decision Support System (AQDSS), also developed with CEEW, for example, assists in monitoring construction sites. It has already helped authorities take measures against more than 1,000 sites since October 2025 in Mumbai.

Reducing ozone requires cutting NOx and VOC emissions from vehicles and industries through cleaner transport, better compliance, and attention to solvents, paints, and fuel combustion. Even simple behavioural measures, like the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign of the Delhi government that urges drivers to switch vehicles off while waiting at junctions to reduce idling emissions, can reduce ozone formation. But Indian cities need more sustained action.

Delhi has had a summer action plan since 2022. Other cities need similar plans that combine forecasting, public health advisories, construction dust control, road dust management, and action on ozone-forming emissions. Summer may disperse some pollutants better than winter, but heat and sunlight create their own pollution chemistry. Indian cities must plan for both seasons, treating them with equal seriousness.

(Mohammad Rafiuddin is Programme Lead and Sneha Maria Ignatious is Programme Associate at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water)

Crackdown on illegal betting networks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In one of the largest anti-online betting operations in the country, the Karnataka State Cyber Command, in coordination with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), has targeted and blocked 8,750 betting websites, mobile applications, and fraudulent betting Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) operating across India.

Acting on credible intelligence, specialised cyber investigation teams conducted a coordinated online operation and uncovered organised groups running illegal cricket betting platforms. Investigators found that the operators were using mirror domains, sub-domains, and cloned URLs to evade detection and continue their activities.

The Cyber Command registered a case under Sections 66C and 66D of the IT Act and Sections 318 (4) and 319(2) of the BNS. Further investigation is on.

JEE (Advanced): City students bag first, second ranks in State

Aryan Ragupathy has secured the 12th place while Manu Parameshwaran has got the 13th place in the Common Rank List of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay zone

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aryan Ragupathy and Manu Parameshwaran

Two students from the city have made the top 20 list and emerged as Karnataka's first and second toppers in JEE (Advanced) 2026, the results of which were announced on Monday.

Aryan Ragupathy, a student of Emerald International School, Bengaluru, has secured the 12th place in the Common Rank List (CRL) of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay zone and emerged as State topper.

Manu Parameshwaran, a student of Narayana Olympiad School, Sahakar Nagar, Bengaluru, secured the 13th place in the CRL of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay zone and emerged as second State topper.

Aryan's father, mother and elder brother are all engineers; drawing inspiration from them, he too decided to pursue Computer Science Engineering (CSE) at IIT-Bombay. Manu's father and mother are also engineers, and he has decided to pursue CSE at the same institution.

IIT-Roorkee released the JEE-Advanced 2026 results on Monday. However, this year too, no students from Karnataka made the top 10 list.

Sharing his happiness with *The Hindu*, Aryan said, "It was really challenging, but I am very happy that I could make it. I secured a score of 310/360."

"Entering the IIT was my childhood dream and it comes true now. I secured 94.8% in class 12. I used to study for six hours every day and slept for six to seven hours. I would go and play cricket every day too. Apart from that, travelling and watching OTT content were also part of my routine," he said.

Manu, who scored 310/360, said, "I am planning to join IIT-Bombay for its CSE, and want to work in the field of engineering."

A total of 1,79,694 candidates appeared in both papers 1 and 2 in JEE (Advanced) 2026, held on May 17. In this exam, 56,880 candidates have qualified. Out of the total qualified candidates, 10,107 are female candidates.

Shubham Kumar of IIT-Delhi zone is the topper in the CRL, scoring 330 out of 360 marks. Arohi Deshpande of IIT-Delhi zone is the top-ranked female candidate with CRL 77. She scored 280 out of 360 marks.

ED seizes ₹1.27 crore cash, gold; freezes ₹18 crore in ₹899-crore bank fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has seized cash and gold worth ₹1.27 crore and froze bank accounts containing ₹18 crore, during searches conducted in connection with an alleged ₹899.35 crore bank fraud linked to Deepak Cables (India) Limited (DCIL).

The searches were carried out under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, on multiple premises linked to the company and its associates on May 21 and May 29.

According to the ED, several incriminating documents belonging to DCIL, its director K. Venkateswara Rao, Kolkata-based businessman Mahesh Agarwal, director of Adhunik Corporation Ltd., and other related persons were seized during the operation.

The money laundering investigation stems from a CBI case that was registered against the DCIL, Rao and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks led by the State Bank of India to the tune of ₹899.35 crore.

Investigators alleged that the company secured and continued to avail itself of large credit facilities by submitting falsified financial statements and manipulating its books of accounts.

The accused are suspected of diverting substantial loan funds obtained from banks for purposes unrelated to the sanctioned business activities.

The ED said its investigation revealed that the accused created a network of entities to facilitate fictitious sales and purchases, circular trading transactions and fake corporate guarantees. These transactions were allegedly used to artificially inflate the company's turnover, enhance its drawing power with banks and evergreen existing loans.

According to the agency, the proceeds of crime were subsequently diverted through related companies and personal bank accounts to conceal their origin and ownership.

The probe found that a significant portion of the loan funds had allegedly been transferred to entities controlled by Rao without any apparent business rationale, raising suspicions of fund diversion and money laundering.

The ED has provisionally frozen bank accounts holding ₹18 crore under Section 17(1A) of the PMLA and seized cash and gold jewellery collectively valued at ₹1.27 crore.

Further probe is under way to trace the money trail, identify additional beneficiaries and establish the extent of the alleged laundering of bank funds.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
No. B/C.565/STBA-NSG-4&5/2026 Dated: 27.05.2026
CORRIGENDUM-I
Sub: Notification of period of contract for STBA at Hosur (HSRA) station
Ref: This office notification dated 08.05.2026
Applications were invited for engagement of STBA at NSG-4 Category - HSRA station vide notification dated 08.05.2026. The period of contract for the STBA at NSG-4 category Hosur station will be upto 20.05.2027. The period of contract will be extended further based on the policy guidelines received from Railway Board. The period of contract of NSG-5 category Dharmapuri Station is 3 years only.
PUB/173/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru**
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru
No:EE/SJN/E-PROC/12/2025-26 Date:01.06.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (TWO COVER)
(Only Through e-procuement)
The Executive Engineer, (Shivajinagara Division), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/ National highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Construction of Storm Water disposal drain, Walkway improvements & other allied works to KR Circle under pass in the new Ward No:16 (Old No:110) Bengaluru Central City Corporation. **Amount Put to Tender : Rs.91.48 Lakhs EMD: Rs.1,83,000.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **08.06.2026** at **3:00** pm in the office of the Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru. (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **10.06.2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Date of Technical Bid Opening of Tenders is on **11.06.2026** by **4:30** pm. (4) Date of Financial Bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical Bid Approved.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Shivaji Nagara Divsiion, BCCC

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562110
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080–27682221, Email : itstaff_ulb_devanahalli@yahoo.co.in
ನಂ.ದೇಪು/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ಸಿಆರ್/04/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.06.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಾಲ್) ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KC3 & 8 ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)
ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಿರುವ ಡ್ರೈವರ್, ಹೆಲ್ಪರ್, ಲೋಡರ್, ಪೌರಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉಪಹಾರ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಎನ್ವಿರಾನ್ಮೆಂಟಲ್ ಕ್ಲಿಯರೆನ್ಸ್ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟನ್ಸಿ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವುದು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ : 202.13 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಒಟ್ಟು 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂರ್ಪಕಿಸುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಪಿ.ಆರ್ (ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್) ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವಮೂರ್ತಿ ಎ, (ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್)
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾತ್ರ/919/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2026–27

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of my client Sri.T.N.Rajath to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale Deed dated 27.05.2002 registered as document No.2401/2002-03 of Book I, Volume No.545 at pages No.1 to 5 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore in respect of Site No.300, measuring 55.75 Square Meters., has been lost at the time of travelling. All the persons hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Original documents. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No.2228584/2026 dated 30.05.2026.
Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. M : 9916343921

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 05-S&T-MYS-2026
Dated: 26.05.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of True Colour Outdoor Video Display (OVD) System at Mysuru (MYS), Shivamogga Town (SMET) and Davangere (DVG) Stations and its integration with the existing Integrated Passenger Information System.	Rs. 2,11,14,294.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 17.06.2026**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Mysuru
PUB/175/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client intends to **enter into a Lease for** below mentioned Schedule Properties from its respective owners of the survey numbers all situated at **Kempatimmanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.**
The Owners have represented that they are the absolute owners of their survey numbers of the Schedule Properties and are in possession of the same and the Schedule Properties are free from any kind of encumbrance, suits, proceedings under any statute. Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in the Schedule Properties or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, gift, inheritance, bequest, possession, lis pendens, maintenance, easement, memorandum of understanding, agreement, power of attorney, option, right of first refusal, pre-emption or otherwise whatsoever is hereby required to notify the same in writing to the undersigned within a period of **Ten (10) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof thereof failing which our Client will treat the title of the Schedule Properties as clear and marketable and will proceed to enter into the transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	EXTENT Acre	EXTENT Guntas	Name of the Owner / Khatedar	Boundaries East	West	North	South
01.	58/1	1	32	Mr. Manohar aged about 50 years son of Late. Mr. Gopal Gowda, resident of Jogahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.	Sy. No. 58/2	Sy. Nos. 58/3 & 64	Sy. No. 66	Road & Sy. No. 59
02.	58/2	1	36		Sy. No. 57	Sy. No. 58/1	Sy. No. 66	Road & Sy. No. 59
03.	58/3	0	9	Mrs. Nalini @ Narayanamma aged about 64 years wife of Mr. Muniraju, resident of No. 23/A, Sannidi, 1st Main, Infront of Kaveri Telecom, Arekere Mico Layout, 1st Stage, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560076.	Sy. No. 58/1	Sy.No. 65/5	Sy. No. 66	Sy. No. 58/1
04.	65/5	0	21		Sy. Nos. 58/3	Sy. No. 65/2	Sy. No. 66	Sy. No. 64

Mr. Sadananda P Naganur / Ms. Soumya V Diwakar
Sadananda & Co., Legal Consultant
54/1, Central Street, Off 8th Cross, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020. Phone : 8971129994

Canara Bank
Fifthsense Syndicate
NANDI DURGA ROAD BRANCH, No.47, Nandi Mahal, Nandi Durga Road, Bengaluru-560046, Mob No : 9483520793, Mail id:cb0793@canarabank.com
POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]
[Rule - 8 (1)] (For immovable Property)
Whereas The undersigned being the authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank, Nandi Durga Road Branch,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **23.03.2026** calling upon the Borrower :**To: 1) Mrs. leena Kumari Lazar W/o A Lazar , 2) Mr. John Dennis Lazar , 3) Mr. aldo Clifton L , 4) Mr.jude Filip L** No.1,2,3 & 4 Are Residing At : No.36, D Street , Baiderhalli,Benson Town , Bengaluru-560046. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 17,24,320.31 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Three hundred Twenty and Paisa Thirty One Only)** and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **26th day of May 2026.**
The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank, Nandi Durga Road Branch** for an amount of **Rs. 17,17,016.55 (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Sixteen and Paisa Fifty Five only)** and interest thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Description of the Immovable Property
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.36 (PID No.91-36-36), situated at D Street, Byadarahalli, Bengaluru now coming under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.91, measuring East to West 10 feet and North to South on the Eastern side 39 feet and Western side 40 feet (39+40/2) , in all 395 Sq.feet and bounded on **East by :** Private property, **West by :** Municipal No.37 , **North by :** Road & **South by :** Private property.
Name of Title holder : Smt.Leena Kumari Lazar
Date : 01.06.2026 , Place :Bangalore **Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr.J.Navneeth Rajesh S/o Late.TRA Joseph and Mrs.Annakumari.N W/o Mr. J.Navneeth Rajesh** are intending to purchase the schedule property from **Mrs.Ameena Begum W/o Mr.Syed Nizamuddin**; person/s objecting for the proposed purchasers or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Corporation **No.12-36/1, e-PID No.2162855684** situated at **2nd Cross, 4th 'C' Main, Hennur Main Road, Hennur Village, Grace Town, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore 560043**, measuring East to West **40 feet** North to South **35 feet** in all measuring **1400 Square feet** with a 200 sq. ft of Sheet house standing thereupon comes under administrative jurisdiction of Bangalore North City Corporation Ward No.24 with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever manner whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:
East by : Property No.13-36/1; West by : Property No.11-36/1; North by : Property No.9-36/1; South by : Road;
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from the landowners of the Schedule Property. All persons having any claim against the Schedule Property or any part thereof are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office within **07 days** from the date of publication hereof, failing which our clients shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Land bearing Survey Number 194/2 (Old Sy.No.194, Earlier Sy.No.57), measuring **01 Acre 19 Guntas, situated at Singena Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** and bounded on the **East by: Land in Sy.No.57 & Sy.No.194/3, West by: Road & Sy.No.57, North by: Sy.No.42 of Gattamaranahalli Village and South by: Road & thereafter Sy.No.194/1.**
M/s. Jury Legal Solutions,
Advocates
No.8, 14th Cross, 14th Main, 4th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102.
Ph : 9035659257/9902195500
Bangalore Date : 02-06-2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಂಘ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:–E-Mail:rchovijayanagara@gmail.com
No:/NHM/Tender/Vehicle/20/2025-26 Date:25/05/2026
TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF VEHICLES
E-tenders (Online) are invited through E-Procurement Portal from reputed parties/agencies supplying of 18 (11 under RBSK Programme and 7 other programmes) vehicles with drivers on outsource-basis for official use of Various National Programmes of Health & Welfare department, Vijayanagar District under National Health Mission. Interested Parties/ Agencies who are willing to comply with the terms and conditions annexed to this notice, may submit their bids online as given in the instructions for online bid.
The tender-Call-2 schedule under e-procurement system is as follows
01.Date of Tender Notification: **22-05-2026 11.30am.** 02.Last date for submission of Tender documentes: **04-06-2026 5.00pm.** 03.Date of submission for objections: **28-05-2026 4.30 pm.** 04.Date of opening of Technical Bid: **05-06-2026 5.30pm.** 05.Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **08-06-2026 11.30am.** 06.Estimated Tender Amount: **66,50,000/-.** 07.EMD Amount: **1,33,000/-.** 08.Place of Tender Opening: **DHO Office Vijayanagara**
For Further information can be obtained from District RCH officer, Vijayanagar District in office hours. Mo.No:-7892724423.
Sd/-Member Secretary, District Health and Family Welfare Society, Vijayanagar District.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/107

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

BACHU SRINIVASULU (58),
Manager - Circulation, Sales and Distribution, The Hindu, Hyderabad
passed away on 01-06-2026.
Address:
H. No: 12-1-1279
Shanti Nagar,
Near SFS School,
Lalapet, Secunderabad - 500007
Mobile: 9848880563

R. RAMACHANDRAN
Age: 95,
originally of Thrissur, Kerala, and of Chanda Paints (unit of Nerolac Paints) passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, the 31st May @ around 5.50 pm leaving behind his loving wife Leela, beloved son Ramesh & daughter-in-law, Latha and adored grandson Shyam.
Contact:
Ramanathan a.k.a.Ramesh
+91 98404 30167
Latha Ramanathan
+91 98403 56598

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

12th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

S.JAYA
Born: 01.03.1944 Died: 02.06.2014
It is 12 years since you left us, but you remain in our hearts forever
Fondly Remembered by Husband, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Grandchildren & Relatives
May your soul rest in peace and bestow happiness in our lives
A.Sivaramakrishnan
C4/44, Kendriya Vihar, Velappanchavadi, Chennai - 600077.
Contact: 26274034 / 9444975565

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mohammad Javeed Baghban S/O, Mohammad Mainuddin Baghban R/o 23-329, Teachers Colony Humnabad, Dist-bidar, Karnataka 585330 have changed my name to Mohammad Javeed S/O, Mohammad Moinuddin.
I, S MAGHESHWAR, S/o N SATYA MOORTHY, residing at B-141, B-Block 18, ISRO Newland Quarters, 2nd Stage Domlur, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560071, shall henceforth be known as MAGHESHWAR S.
I, AMARCHAND Chopra Jitendra Kumar, R/a No.27, 1 FB, 1st Flr, Hinal Haritage Race Course Rd, Near Hotel Solitar Madhavanagar, B'lore-560001 have changed my name to Jitendra Kumar vide affidavit dt: 13.05.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.
I, DIYA, R/a No.12, Nrushimadhari Apt, 2nd Mn Rd, 7th Blk, Jayanagar, B'lore-560070 have changed my name to Diya Bhandari vide affidavit dt: 28.05.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRAKASH Chand Jain, R/a No.22/4, 3rd Flr, Mohna Blossom, 2nd Mn Rd, Chamarajpet, B'lore-560018 have changed my name to Prakash Chand vide affidavit dt: 08.05.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.
I, Chanabasappa S/O, Shivaraya R/o 1/18 Dhumansoor Humnabad Dhumansoor Po Dhumansoor Dist Bidar Karnataka 585222 have changed my name to Channa Basappa Hugar.
I, Nagashetty S/O, Channa Basappa Hugar R/o H No E 28/b Krishna Marg Near Guest House Ln Nagar V C Sedam Sedam Gulbarga Karnataka 585222 have changed my name to Nagashetty Hugar
I, URMILA Devi m/o Mukesh Kumar Dwivedi r/o P/228/4 HQ TC IAF, campus Hebbal JC Nagar post Bengaluru–06 have changed my name from Urmila Devi to Urmila Dwivedi vide affidavit 1173 dtd 30/4/26 before Notary public Kanpur Court

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Amzad Khan, S/o. Murtuza Khan, residing at C1-1603, L and T South City, Arekere Mico Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, Karnataka, hereby declare that the name of my father has been incorrectly mentioned in my educational records as: 1) Murtaza Khan Saba in Secondary School Examination (10th) Certificate 2) Murtaza Khan in Senior School Certificate Examination (12th)Certificate 3) M. Khan Saba in B.Sc. (Part I, Part II & Final Examination) Statements of Marks That the correct and actual name of my father is Murtuza Khan. All the above-mentioned names, namely Murtaza Khan Saba, Murtaza Khan, M. Khan Saba and Murtuza Khan refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, the correct name of my father shall be treated and used as Murtuza Khan for all official, legal, educational and other purposes.
I, UZMA KHAN (formerly known as Uzma Parveen Ali before marriage), wife of Amzad Khan, residing at C1-1603, L and T South City, Arekere MICO Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560076, Karnataka, hereby declare that the name of my father has been incorrectly mentioned in various educational and other records as: S. S. Ali, Saiyad Shahzad Ali, S. Shahzad Ali, Syed Shahjad Ali, Shahzad Ali, Sahzad Ali That the correct and actual name of my father is Sayed Shahzad Ali. All the above-mentioned names refer to one and the same person, namely my father Sayed Shahzad Ali. Henceforth, the correct name of my father shall be read, written and treated as Sayed Shahzad Ali for all official, legal, educational, Gazette publication and other purposes.

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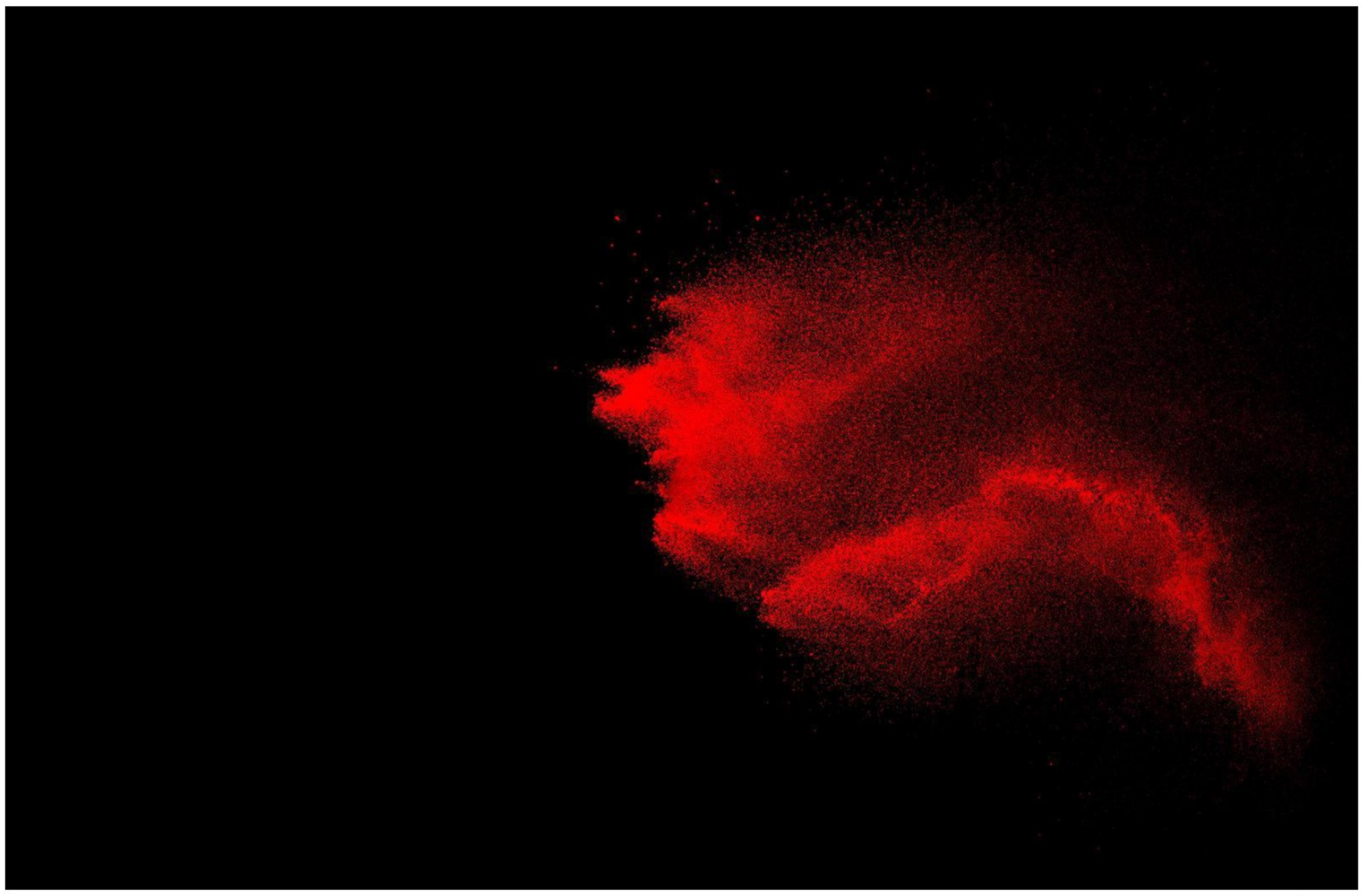

GETTY IMAGES

How red moved through empires, trade networks, and industrial factories

Red emerges from a vast global system of dyes made from insects raised in the Americas, plants cultivated in Asia, and shellfish harvested along Mediterranean coasts; it moves through empires, trade networks, and factories, shifting from living organisms to laboratory production

Satwik Gade

In 1799, during the storming of the fortress of Seringapatam, British troops broke through the defences of Srirangapatna and killed Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore. The palace inventories compiled in the aftermath record jewels, weapons, manuscripts and textiles of startling colour. Officers wrote with particular fascination about the intensity of the dyed fabrics stored in the royal workshops.

At the same moment, the soldiers themselves wore uniforms dyed in equally vivid scarlet. The British redcoat marching through the palace and the Mysorean textile he admired were both products of a vast global system of dyes – insects raised in the Americas, plants cultivated in Asia, shellfish harvested along Mediterranean coasts.

Global red trade

In the Mediterranean world, the most famous red-purple dye was extracted from marine snails harvested along Levantine shores. Classical writers such as Pliny the Elder describe vats of crushed shells fermenting under the sun, releasing a colour so rare that Roman law eventually reserved it for imperial robes. The value of the dye lay not merely in its hue but in the difficulty of its production: thousands of mollusks sacrificed to colour a single garment. In the Americas,

As pigments entered circuits of factories and markets, meanings attached to red began to shift: from sacrifice to revolution, warning, and mass politics

Indigenous farmers raised the cochineal insect on cactus paddles, harvesting the tiny bodies and drying them into a powder that produced a red of extraordinary intensity. A pound of red from these insects could produce enough red colour to run an entire factory. When Spanish ships began exporting cochineal to Europe in the sixteenth century, the dye rapidly became one of the most valuable commodities of the Atlantic world, rivaling silver in price and strategic importance.

Elsewhere, especially across Eurasia, dyers cultivated the roots of the madder plant, whose alizarin compounds could produce deep crimson lakes. These biological reds travelled astonishing distances. A single crimson cloak worn in London or Istanbul might contain colour drawn from insects cultivated in Oaxaca, plants grown in Central Asia, or mollusks harvested from Mediterranean shores. Colour, therefore, linked distant ecologies into networks of exchange long before industrial globalisation. Each red carried with it a geography.

Military power depended on these networks. By the eighteenth century, the scarlet coats of European regiments required reliable supplies of imported dyes. On battlefields clouded with gunpowder smoke, vivid uniforms helped commanders identify their troops and maintain order. The siege of Seringapatam unfolded within this global colour economy. Mysore's textile workshops produced fabrics dyed through Indian Ocean trade networks that connected Persian, Southeast Asian and South Asian markets. British officers entering the palace encountered not simply decorative cloth but the material traces of a rival commercial system. Empires fought not only for territory but also for control of the commodities that coloured the world.

Imperial cloth

Yet even as imperial armies marched in crimson, the foundations of the dye trade were beginning to shift. For centuries, every brilliant red had depended on living organisms, whether it was roots pulled from soil, or insects harvested from cacti, or shellfish gathered along rocky coasts. In 1856, the English chemist William Henry Perkin inadvertently altered this relationship. While attempting to synthesise quinine in an experiment, he produced a purple residue that dyed silk with remarkable intensity. The compound, later marketed as mauveine, inaugurated the modern synthetic dye industry. Within a few decades, chemists learned to reproduce the molecular structures responsible for many natural colours. In 1869, industrial chemists succeeded in synthesising alizarin, which is the key red component of madder, making centuries of agricultural cultivation suddenly unnecessary.

The implications were profound. Madder fields across Europe collapsed almost overnight. Cochineal plantations faced competition from cheaper laboratory pigments. What had once required soil, insects, seasons and skilled cultivation could now be produced in factories wherever coal, glassware and chemical knowledge were available.

Red was becoming abstract. Red moved from earth, to organism, to laboratory – from ritual substance to industrial commodity. And as pigments entered the circuits of factories, markets and empires, the meanings attached to red also began to shift: from sacrifice and sovereignty to revolution, warning, and mass politics.

Synthetic shift

The colour remained the same to the eye, but the world that produced it, and the world that would perceive red as a phenomenon, had both fundamentally changed.

(Satwik Gade is a Chennai-based writer and illustrator. This article is part of a series on the history and development of colours)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Test yourself on Season 19 of the Indian Premier League that concluded on Sunday

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Apart from the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, which two teams have defended their crowns?

QUESTION 2
14 batters notched up 15 centuries. Who was the only batter to have scored two tons?

QUESTION 3
Matches were played across 13 stadiums. So, in which State capitals are the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium and Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium?

QUESTION 4
What was unique about Match 38, played on April 26?

QUESTION 5
Who became the first player to win back-to-back titles with two different teams?

QUESTION 6
Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was the biggest star of this season's IPL. Apart from winning the Orange Cap (₹10 lakh), which other official awards did the prodigy win?

Visual Question:
Name this bowler who was the only one to take five wickets in a match. R.V. MOORTHY

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In which year did Goa attain statehood, and from which State was it separated? **Ans: 1987 and Daman and Diu**
2. On what date does Goa celebrate its Liberation Day? **Ans: December 19, 1961**
3. Goa attained statehood on May 30, and it became the .... State of India. Fill in the blanks. **Ans: 25**
4. Who owned Goa before India, and when was it annexed to India? **Ans: Portugal and 1961**
5. "Little Russia" in Goa refers to which place? **Ans: Morjim Beach**
6. What was the name of Goa before it was changed to the present name? **Ans: Gomantak, Govapuri, Gopakapattanna and Aparanta**
Visual: This place is famous for its "Blue Lagoon" — a stunning, emerald-green freshwater lagoon situated in South Goa. What is this place? **Ans: Cola Beach**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Tom Alan Faith | Tito Shiladitya | Tamanjit Bisla | Sumana Dutta

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

How do you pronounce the word "hullabaloo"? What does it mean? (Dr. K. Ramachandra Bhat, Kozhikode)
The "u" is like the "u" in "cut", "hut", and "gut". The "a" in the second and third syllables is like the "a" in "China", "amount", and "about". The final "oo" is pronounced like the "oo" in "tool", "cool", and "pool". Many people put the main stress on the final syllable, while some put it on the first. The word can be pronounced either way.

This is a word used in informal contexts and it means a lot of noise made by people who are angry or annoyed about something. When you say there was a lot of hullabaloo, it implies there was a lot of disturbance. Here are a few examples.

I went to Rajesh's party last night. What a hullabaloo there was.

Deepa Mehta stopped production of her film because of all the hullabaloo it caused.

What's the difference between a "referee" and an "umpire"? (V. Elavarasi, Pondicherry)
I don't think there is a difference in meaning between the two. An umpire and a referee are expected to make sure that the players follow the rules of the game and penalise them if they don't. The word referee is normally associated with wrestling, basketball, billiards, boxing, football, hockey, and rugby. Umpire, on the other hand, is associated with cricket, baseball, tennis, table tennis, and volleyball. By the way, in the word "referee", the stress is on the final syllable.

What is the meaning of "to cleanse the Augean stables"? (A. Jaipal Reddy, Wanaparthy)
First, let's deal with the pronunciation. The "au" in the first syllable is like the "ore" in "shore", "chore", and "pore". The "g" is like the "j" in "jam", "jail", and "job". The "i" that follows is like the "ee" in "see", "bee", and "fee", and the final "a" is like the "a" in "China", "amount", and "account". The stress is on the second syllable.

King Augeas of Elis had huge stables containing about 3000 oxen. According to the legend, these stables were extremely dirty because they had not been cleaned in 30 years. Kevin Sarbo was asked to clean the stables in a day's time. Kevin Sarbo! Isn't that the name of the actor who stars in the tele-series "Hercules"? Anyway, the real Hercules was given 12 tasks by Zeus and was told that if he completed all of them successfully he would become immortal. One of the "labors" he was given was to "cleanse the Augean stables" in a single day. Hercules completed this task successfully by diverting the course of the river Alpheus and letting the water run through the huge stables.

The expression is used to mean "to clean up a mess". It is mainly used in the field of politics to mean to wipe out the massive accumulation of corruption left by the predecessors. Another common expression used these days is "to clean house".

What is the meaning of the word "Reuters"? (D. Sundaramoorthy, Chennai)
You normally find this word at the end of newspaper articles. Reuters is an international news agency started by Baron de Paul Julius Reuter.
Published in The Hindu on October 24, 2000

Word of the day

Quibble:
an evasion of the point of an argument by raising irrelevant distinctions or objections

Synonyms: complain, fuss, whine

Usage: *She quibbled over every detail of the plan.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/quibble

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kwɪbəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

M.S. Ramaiah group to establish RISM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The M.S. Ramaiah (MSR) Group is establishing a 'Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM)' in collaboration with the University of Albany (SUNY Albany), New York.

The RISM is set to come up in Bengaluru and will be inaugurated on June 4.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUN. 02	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 20:34	SET 07:10
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 03	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 21:22	SET 08:02
THURSDAY, JUN. 04	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 22:07	SET 08:54

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	32	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Students receive warm welcome featuring floral decorations in all schools

Schools, including govt., aided, and private institutions resumed classes after the summer break

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Teachers welcoming students on the first day of the academic year 2026-2027 as schools reopened, at the BBMP Government School in Ganganagar, Bengaluru, on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Schools across the State reopened on Monday for the new academic year 2026-27, with students receiving a warm welcome featuring floral decorations and celebratory gestures.

Schools, including government, aided, and private institutions resumed classes after the summer break.

In many schools, teachers and staff adorned entrances with flowers and decorative items. At some primary schools, teachers performed aarti to welcome students, while flowers and sweets were distributed in several institutions. Many government schools featured floral arches and other festive elements.

On the first day, students also arrived at the schools with enthusiasm and excitement. SaiSure ragi health mix, midday meals with sweet and additional nutrition eggs and bananas were distributed to the students in all government and aided schools. Textbooks and uniforms were also distributed to all the students.

To effectively manage and monitor attendance of its staff including teachers, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has implemented the mobile-based Karnataka Attendance Management System (KAMS) form this academic year. However, teachers of all schools, marked attendance without any technical glitch.

An enrolment drive was held in all schools across the State. There was a good response from parents and students for enrolment in many government schools.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, V. Rashmi Mahesh, Principal Secretary of the DSEL, said, "I visited many schools in Bengaluru South and North Educational districts on Monday and participated in the school opening ceremony. It was seen that there was a huge response from parents for school enrolment. Mainly, enrollment has taken place in large numbers for Pre-Primary (LKG), classes 1, 6 and 9. And, there is a huge demand for bilingual schools."

In addition, it was seen that parents were overwhelmed for enrolment in Karnataka Public Schools (KPS). schools, she added.

Wishes from DKS

Meanwhile, Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar wished the students for the new academic year. "Our students have made their own contribution as a valuable human resource at the global level, and the whole world is witness to this. Our knowledge base attracts the whole world. Our students have studied in most of the universities of the world and have achieved many achievements," he said.

State government issues order constituting Quantum Task Force

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has issued an order constituting the Karnataka Quantum Task Force, with the goal of establishing the State as a national hub for quantum technology and innovation.

Arindam Ghosh, JRD Tata Chair Professor, and J.C. Bose National Fellow in the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been appointed as chairperson of the task force. The Director of the Department of Science and Technology (Government of Karnataka), and the Managing Director of Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society, will serve as the member-secretaries.

The task force has been formed to implement the outlines and strategies of the 'Karnataka Quantum Roadmap', which was recently unveiled at the Quantum India Bengaluru Summit. The Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Science & Technology issued the order in this regard.

According to the government, the task force will provide the necessary policy formulation, strategic direction, and institutional guidance to foster quantum technology research, innovation, start-up support, and industrial adoption in Karnataka.

The committee will be responsible for blueprinting and overseeing the development of key cutting-edge infrastructure in Karnataka, including the mega Quantum City in Hesaraghatta.

The 16-member committee comprises prominent experts from academic institutions, research centres, the tech industry, and senior government officials.

Bellatrix Aerospace to help launch South Korean VLEO satellite mission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Space start-up Bellatrix Aerospace will help South Korean space company TelePIX in an upcoming Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) satellite mission. The TelePIX and Bellatrix will custom develop a VLEO Earth observation satellite around the Choulette payload, aimed at securing high-quality geospatial data.

Under the partnership, the TelePIX's high-resolution wide-swath optical payload Chouette will be integrated with the Bellatrix Aerospace's VLEO satellite platform powered by Air-Breathing Electric Propulsion (ABEP). Bellatrix will provide the satellite bus, including propulsion, power, thermal control and attitude control systems, while TelePIX will supply the optical payload and support system integration The VLEO satellites operate at altitudes of approximately 150 km to 250 km, lower than conventional Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites.However, the VLEO environment presents significant atmospheric drag, making high-efficiency propulsion technology essential for long-term operation.

The TelePIX said that Chouette has been designed with a form factor optimised specifically for the VLEO environments, unlike conventional optical payloads currently on the market. Through this collaboration, the companies aim to realise a satellite system capable of stable operations even in the VLEO conditions. The Chouette features a wide-swath optical imaging system with more than twice the observation width of comparable satellites currently on the market. Combined with the TelePIX's proprietary AI-based image processing technology, the payload is designed for applications across defence, disaster response, and environmental monitoring.

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817,
E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇ.ವಿ/ವಿಜ/ಇಪ್ರಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026–27/593 ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Vijayapura has invited e-tender for the works under the CMIDP Grant scheme for the year 2025-26 Work Indent No. RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26688, 26714, 26617, 26687 & 26619 **for General Bidders,** Rs. 180.00 Lakhs to Rs.300.00 Lakhs Total 5 work vide Tender Publication No.593 Date: 29.05.2026. Last Date for submission of Tender is 16.06.2026 time 5.30 PM.
For more information about the tender, the information can be collected at the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or visit the office of the said Division during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/ಟಿ8/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, Room No: 09,
Ground Floor, Annex Building-3, Greater Bengaluru Authority
Office Premises, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.
No: BCCC/EE/TEC/Tend/04/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 01.06.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender Notification (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer-Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BCCC, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) based on "Dynamic Duration" model under Commercial Advertisement rights at "Amar Junction" on Dhanvantri Road. **(Reserved for Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe Category).** **EMD (in ₹): Rs 5.0 Lakhs (Rs. One Lakh through e-payment & remaining Rs. Four Lakhs as specified in bid document.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of RFP online: **02-06-2026 onwards. (2)** Last Date for Tender queries: **11-06-2026 up to 3:00 p.m.** Only through KPP Portal. **(3)** Pre bid Meeting on **12-06-2026 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Office of the Chief Engineer, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-1, 18th Floor, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Public Utility Building, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru-560001. **(4)** Last Date for Receipt of Tender is **19-06-2026 up to 5:00 p.m. (5)** Date of opening of Technical Bid is **22-06-2026 at 11:00 a.m. (6)** Date of opening of financial Bid after approval of technical bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BCCC.

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat, Bellary
Office of the District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Near Joladarashi Doddanagouda Rangamandara, D. Devaraj Urs Bhavan, Bellary District, Bellary.
E-Mail:dobcmbellery@gmail.com Phone No:08392-275751
No.BCWD/BLY/OUTSOURCESSERVICE/CR-01/2026-27
Dated: 29-05-2026.

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Backward Classes Welfare Department, Bellary has invited E-Tender throuth e-Procurement Portal for the 2026-27 & 2027-28 financial year for supplying outsource employees to Pre-matric and Post-matric hostels, Taluk and District Backward Classes Welfare Department offices and Moraji desai Residential Schools details as follows
1.Tender Reference No and date: **No.BCWD/BLY/OUTSOURCESSERVICE/CR-01/2026-27 29.05.2026.** 2.Tender Notification Date: **29.05.2026.** 3.Commencement of download of E-tender Form from website: **29.05.2026.** 4.Amount put to Tender Amount and EMD Amount. **District:** Ballari. **Tender Amount (Rs.in Lakhs):** 1243.05. **EMD Amount (in Rupees):** 18,65,000. 5.Last date & Time for submission of Tender: **15.06.2026 5.00 P.M.** 6.Date & Time of opening of Technical bid: **16.06.2026 5.10 P.M.** 7.Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid.: **Technically qualified organizations will be notified.** 9.Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication: **District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, D.DEVARAJ URS BHAVAN NEAR JOLADHARASHI DODDANAGOWDA RANGAMANDIRA, BALLARI. Phone No.08392-275751**
Interested eligible Registered in e-procurement portal bidders can down load the bid documents with visiting the web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- District Officer, Backward Clasess Welfare Department Ballari Dist, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/195

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023.
Ph: 080-2955 7021, e-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com
No: KSAPS/PRC/5/2025-26 Date: 29.05.2026

Invitation for short term tenders (Two Cover) (Call-4)
(through e-Procurement Portal only)

Short term Tenders (Two Cover) (Call-4) are invited for **supply of Barcode and Scanner machines, sticker etc. to ART Centers** under E-Procurement System. For more details are available at website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Last date for submission of tender on **15.06.2026 at 5.30 pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDs Prevention Society
Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/915/SA/2026-27

Office of the Mission Director,
National Livelihood Mission, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Dept.,
4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall,
Bengaluru-560002. email: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com
No. KSRLPS/NFL/GEN/98/2024/NONFL/KSRLPS Date: 01.06.2026

Tender Notification

National Livelihood Mission-Sanjeevini-KSRLPS, invites Request for Proposal for the Fabrication, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 1840 Coffee Kiosks for Women Self Help Groups at Various Locations across Karnataka. The RFP was published through "KPPP Portal" on 01.06.2026. Interested & eligible bidders can participate by logging to the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The last date for submition of RFP is 22.06.2026 on or before 5:00 PM. Kindly refer to the tender document for detailed schedule and information, Tender No: KSRLPS/ 2026-27/IND0002.

Sd/-
Additional Mission Director
Sanjeevini-KSRLPS, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/923/AKAR/2026-27

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender for Supply through KPP Portal details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Enquiry No / Indent No	Name of the Tender
1.	BESCOM/2026-27/ IND0253/Call-2	Anchor Rods/Guy Rods GI-using 12mm rounds

Bid Documents available on or after : **03.06.2026.** Last date for submission of Bids: **09.06.2026, 17:15 hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **10.06.2026, 17:30 hrs.**
The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912 Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Sri. Shrikanth M Deshpande,** Aged 46 years,S/o. Late Manohar Rao Deshpande, Residing at No.401, SLN Meadows, Channasandra Main Road, Dwarkanagar, Phase 1, Bangalore- 560098 and Smt. Punyashri KS, Aged 37 years, W/o. Sri. Gunashekhar K.M, No.304, 3rd Floor, SLN Meadows, Dwarkanagar, Channasandra Main Road, Bangalore- 560098, intend to purchase the Schedule Property Sri. Ramesh V, Kallihosuru Grama, Kasba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar Taluk (Aadhar No. 741360537457). The Seller **Sri. Ramesh V,** came into the possession, occupation and absolute ownership of the Schedule property by virtue of relinquishment deed dated 20.09.2022, bearing registration No. CAN-1-04181-2022-23, Book-I, stored in CD No. CAND1235, registered in the office of the Sub Registrar Channapatna, executed by and between the seller himself and his mother Smt. Shivamma and his sister Smt. Padma. Any person/s, legal heirs, Trusts, societies, institutions, academic groups, associations, firms companies, corporate or any other claiming to have any charge lien, interest encumbrances, lease claim or demand of anyway of sale, transfer, memorandum of understanding, assignment, possession, succession, rights whatsoever the Schedule Property, may lodge their claim with the undersigned with original documentary proof within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our clients will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the Schedule Property. No claims will be entertained thereafter and our clients will proceed with the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy No. 45/4, measuring 00-09 Guntas, situated at Patlu Grama, KasabaHobli, Chennapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District, including all appurtenances whether underneath or above the surface there to and bounded on:
East by : Government Road,
West by : Private Property belonging to Jayarathna
North by : Private Property belonging to Vijayakumar
South by : Private Property belonging to Suresh

Pallavi.K Advocate
64/1, 5TH main road, Chamarajpet,
Bengaluru- 560018 Ph: 9739831357

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08225–272128 Email : sec.mmtemple@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶ್ರೀ ಮ.ಮ.ಕ್ಷೇ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/3(ದಾಸೋಹ)/ಜಿಆರ್/05/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–05–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಂ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 2ನೇ ಕರೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	ಶ್ರೀಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ನಿತ್ಯ ಅನ್ನ ದಾಸೋಹದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಇರುವ ಸುಮಾರು 200 ಟನ್ (2 ಲಕ್ಷ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.) ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಲೇ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	60–00	60,000–00

ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05–06–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ +91 9739117671 ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ, ದಾಸೋಹ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ರವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

1.	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–05–2026ರ ನಂತರ
2.	ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–06–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
3.	ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಕಾಲ ಸ್ಥಳ : ದಾಸೋಹ ಭವನದ ಆವರಣ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮ.ಬೆಟ್ಟ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–06–2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
4.	ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–06–2026 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ನಂತರ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ:ಚಾನಗರ:140:2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF COMPLEX : DR MH MARIGOWDA ROAD :
BANGALORE – 560029 Tel: 080-25536625 080-25536789
IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ NHMPP- Motor Rewinding /02359/2026-27 Date:01.06.2026

SHORT TERM-TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites Short term tender through KPPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested eligible firms may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact Help desk E-mail; **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com** and helpline no. **080-25501227/ 25501216.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	QTY	EMD in Rs	Period of completion
1	Biannual Rate Contract for Rewinding Works of Various Capacity Burnt-out Motors at Nandini Hitech Mega Powder Plant Ramanagar.	1 Job	50,000/-	2-years

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **03-06-2026 To 10-06-2026 upto 4.00 PM**
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: **10-06-2026 up to 4.00 PM**
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **11-06-2026 at 4:30 PM.**

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPPP portal only.

Director [Engineering-2]

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602
No: DYES/SW/SSC/03/2026-27 Dated: 01.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION Call-2
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject:- The Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender for Operation and Maintenance of Sport Science Center at Belagavi with all Necessary Human resource.

Particulars : Operation and Maintenance of Sport Science Center at Belagavi with all Necessary Human resource. EMD : **Rs 1,00,000/-. a)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E- Procurement Portal: **Dt. 16.06.2026:time 16.30Hrs. b)** Opening of Pre-Qualification Offers: **Dt. 17.06.2026: time 17.00 Hrs. c)** Opening of Commercial Offers: **Will be intimated**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Welfare)
Department of Youth Empowerment and sports
DIPR/CP/927/Zen/2026-27

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‘Outsiders’ lobbying to enter RS from Karnataka Congress

Y.S. Sharmila, Supriya Shrinate, and Pawan Khera are said to be lobbying for a seat in the Upper House of Parliament

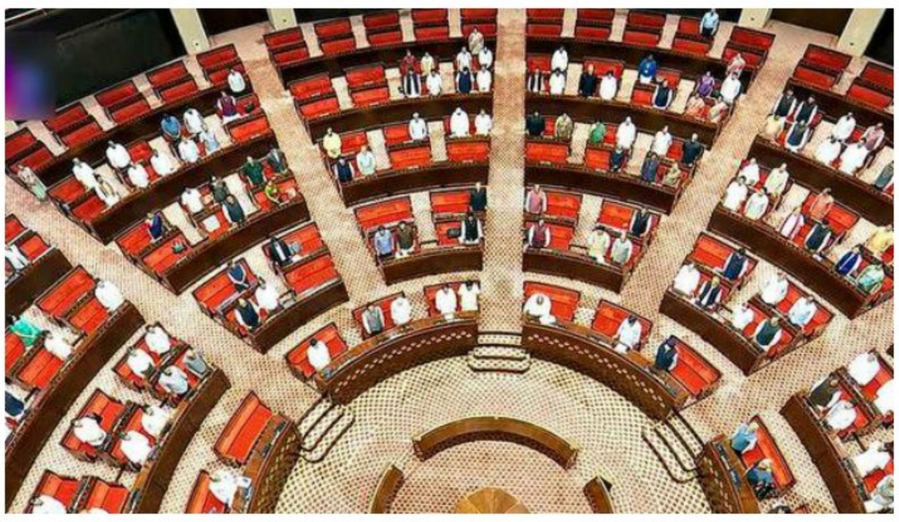
Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

With the ruling Congress in Karnataka set to secure three of the four Rajya Sabha seats in the biennial elections scheduled for June 18, the party high command is believed to be considering nominating a Congress leader from outside the State.

Sources in the party said three leaders from outside Karnataka – Y.S. Sharmila, Supriya Shrinate, and Pawan Khera – are lobbying with the Congress leadership for a Rajya Sabha seat from the State.

Ms. Sharmila merged her YSR Telangana Party with the Congress in January 2024, and formally joined the party in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi in the national capital. She is believed to be the frontrunner among the candidates.

Ms. Shrinate is currently the AICC chairperson for social media and digital communications and is a prominent party spokesperson, often seen defending the Congress in debates on television. Mr. Khera has recently been in the news in connection with a case filed against him by the wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.


Karnataka has a history of electing leaders from outside the State to the Rajya Sabha. ANI

Karnataka has a history of electing leaders from outside the State to the Rajya Sabha. In 2024, the Congress nominated former Delhi Congress president Ajay Maken to the Upper House. The BJP also fielded non-Karnataka leaders from the State, including Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar are expected to finalise the party’s candidates for the Rajya Sabha during consultations with central leaders in New Delhi over the next couple of days.

Although some party leaders are said to favour sending Mr. Siddaramaiah to the Rajya Sabha, he has made it clear that he intends to remain active in State politics. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is expected to seek re-election to the Upper House.

Elections will be held for seven seats; the ruling party is expected to comfortably secure four seats

KPCC general secretary Basavaraju A.P. is considered a frontrunner if the party decides to nominate a candidate from the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community. Notably, no Congress leader from the community has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka in nearly 25 years.

Senior Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad’s term in the Legislative Council is ending this month. While his name is also being discussed for a Rajya Sabha nomination, party sources said he is keen on securing another term in the Council and is also lobbying for a ministerial berth in the new government.

Council seats

Biennial elections to seven Legislative Council seats from the Assembly electoral college will also be held on June 18. As the party is ruling in the State, sources said leaders are lobbying hard to become MLCs rather than Rajya Sabha members.

Elections would be held for seven seats. The ruling party is expected to comfortably secure four seats.

Notification issued for polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A notification for commencing the process of biennial elections – scheduled for June 18 – to fill four vacancies in the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka, was issued on Monday. The vacancies will be filled through polling, during which Karnataka MLAs will exercise their franchise.

The biennial elections have been necessitated due to the retirements of former prime minister H.D. Deve Gowda, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, and BJP members Iranna Kadadi and Narayana Koragappa on June 25.

As per the notification, June 8 is the last day for filing nominations, which will be scrutinised on June 9. The last day for withdrawal of nominations is June 11. Polling will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 18. Counting of votes will be taken up at 5 p.m. on the same day.

On the first day, no nominations were filed for the Rajya Sabha polls.

Purported audio of Zameer attempting to ‘sabotage’ Davangere bypolls goes viral

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Trouble over Muslim leadership in Congress continues, this time over an audio clip. A purported telephonic conversation between former Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan and Congress leader Mohammed Siraj, which surfaced and went viral on Monday, sparked a fresh controversy over alleged attempts at sabotaging Congress’s chances in the Davangere South bypolls.

Coming amid talks of Cabinet formation after D.K. Shivakumar takes over as Chief Minister, Mr. Zameer described the surfacing of the audio as a “political conspiracy”. He said that it had been cooked up by miscreants to create confusion and spoil his chances.

“Nobody should believe this. The audio is fake and has been created through artificial intelligence. A complaint will be filed with the cybercrime police against those who have created the audio and circulated it. Let any kind of investigation be done on this audio,” the former Minister said.

B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan

Mr. Siraj also described it as “100% lies” and said they had spoken only to discuss how to work for the Congress. Mr. Siraj has filed a complaint in this regard with the CEN (Cyber, Economic, and Narcotics) Police Station in Davangere. Mr. Ahmed, who was part of the outgoing Siddaramaiah-led government, is believed to be lobbying to secure a Cabinet berth again. The Davangere bypoll preparations had turned tricky for the Congress leadership amid rumours that sections of Muslims, upset over the denial of a ticket to a candidate from the community, might turn against the party. The Congress nominated Samarth Shamanur, grandson of former Minister Shamanur Shivashankarappa, whose demise necessitated the bypolls. He won the election by a narrow margin.

The SDPI candidate secured its highest-ever votes in the constituency. The audio clip features the two voices talking about the ‘cooker’ symbol of the SDPI. The confusion and alleged attempts by certain leaders to sabotage the Congress prospects led to the suspension of MLC Abdul Jabbar from the party after he resigned from the post of Chairman of Minority Cell, while Naseer Ahmed, Political Secretary to Mr. Siddaramaiah, was sacked. There were allegations against Mr. Zameer, though he did not face action.

Brajesh Kumar Singh is Canara Bank MD & CEO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank on Monday announced that Brajesh Kumar Singh has assumed charge as managing director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank. As per the Government of India notification dated May 30, his appointment will be effective until April 30, 2029 (the date of his superannuation) or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He has over three decades of banking experience across domains.

Mr. Singh succeeds K. Satyanarayana Raju, who completed his tenure as MD and CEO on December 31, 2025.

Siddaramaiah has left State in financial mess with ₹75,689 crore dues: Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has left the State in a financial mess with dues to the tune of ₹75,689 crore waiting to be paid, besides putting the State under a “massive debt burden”, the Opposition BJP on Monday expressed fear that Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar may resort to increasing taxes due to paucity of funds.

Pending dues

Addressing a press conference here, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the pending dues included ₹38,000 crore towards contractors’ bills, ₹12,500 crore to be paid to Escoms, ₹5,000 crore towards pending instalments of Gruha Lakshmi, ₹4,500 crore towards reimbursement to RTCs towards Shakti scheme, ₹2,000 crore towards RTC staff and ₹600 crore towards Annabhagya scheme.

R. Ashok

“Everyone praised Mr. Siddaramaiah for handing over power gracefully, but this is the real secret behind it. The financial mess was the reason why Mr. Siddaramaiah did not fight to retain power. He has now dumped the responsibility of clearing the financial mess on Mr. Shivakumar,” Mr. Ashok remarked.

Mr. Ashok declared that the party would fight to ensure that the pending instalments for Gruha Lakshmi and Annabhagya are paid.

Further ridiculing Mr. Siddaramaiah, he said: “Mr. Siddaramaiah refused to attend meetings called by the Centre and missed the opportunity to represent the interests of the State. But now he is making quick visits to Delhi to bargain for a position for his son.” Mr. Ashok maintained that the Congress high command had earned the wrath of the OBCs, particularly that of the Kuruba community to which Mr. Siddaramaiah belongs, by unseating him abruptly.

“The Congress high command ordered Mr. Siddaramaiah to step down immediately, though he asked for a time of three months,” he claimed.

Mr. Ashok predicted that the ruling Congress would face an internal tussle soon after the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Shivakumar as Chief Minister.

Three judicial officers sworn in as judges of Karnataka High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three judicial officers – Rajeshwarai Narayana Hegde, K.G. Shanthi and M. Brungesh – were sworn in as additional judges of the Karnataka High Court on Monday.

Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru of the Karnataka High Court administered the oath of office to the newly appointed judges.

New judges

Born on March 18, 1966, in Halageri, Uttara Kannada, Justice Hegde secured her law degree from Dharwad University. Enrolled as an advocate in 1991, she was appointed Munsif in 1998 and rose steadily, serving in various taluks and districts. She had served as Principal District and Sessions Judge in Davangere and Chikkamagaluru prior to her elevation to the Karnataka High Court.

Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru of the Karnataka High Court administered the oath of office to the newly appointed judges

Justice Shanthi, born on May 3, 1968, in Virajpet, Kodagu, to an Army veteran father who had taken part in the war against Pakistan and China, holds B.Com and LLM degrees. She enrolled as an advocate in 1992. She practised in Mysuru and Madikeri, and joined the judiciary in 1998.

In addition, she had served as Principal District and Sessions Judge at Dharwad and Ballari.

Justice Brungesh, born on August 16, 1968, in T. Narsipur, secured third rank in LLB from JSS Law College, Mysuru. Enrolled as an advocate in 1991, he practised law before joining the judiciary in 1998. Apart from serving as a judicial officer in various districts, he had also served as a senior faculty at the Karnataka Judicial Academy, training hundreds of judicial officers for five years.

He also held key posts, including Director of the Arbitration Centre, Bengaluru, and Principal District and Sessions Judge at Kodagu and Mandya district prior to his elevation.

Year-long events to mark 75th anniversary of Kagodu Satyagraha

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Activists from several progressive organisations have decided to observe the 75th anniversary of the historic Kagodu Satyagraha – considered the first peasant movement in independent India – through a series of programmes spread across this year. The initiative aims to revive public memory of a movement that shaped the course of land reforms in the country.

The revolt’s roots

In March 1951, tenant farmers of Kagodu village in Sagar taluk revolted against landlords over a dispute regarding the size of the kolaga (a container used to measure and divide agricultural produce). Dissatisfied with the landlords’ unilateral changes to the terms of yield-sharing, the tenants refused to comply.

Kagodu village in Sagar taluk attracted nationwide attention in 1951 following tenant farmers protest against landlords. SATHISH G.T.

The landlords retaliated by barring them from entering the very land they had tilled for generations.

When the farmers defied the order, they were beaten up by the police and landlord supporters.

Mass arrests followed, and the unfolding events drew nationwide attention.

H. Ganapathiyappa, a schoolteacher who played a central role in organising the movement, is remembered as one of its key architects. Prominent socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia visited Kagodu and expressed solidarity with the tenants.

He was subsequently arrested at Sagar railway station and lodged in the Central Prison in Bengaluru.

Though land rights were not granted to the tenants immediately, the movement laid the foundation for the landmark land reform legislation in the decades that followed.

The movement laid the foundation for the landmark land reform legislation in the decades that followed

Fading memory

Seventy-five years on, very few of those who participated in the movement are still alive. Former minister and senior politician Kagodu Thimmappa, now in his 90s, was a high school student when the satyagraha unfolded.

“The present generation has forgotten the struggle and sacrifice of those who led the satyagraha,” said Shivananda Kugve, State vice-president of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and a native of Kugve near Sagar.

“People now have land, but they do not remember those responsible for it. We want to reach out to people across the taluk and recall those days,” he said.

The raitha sangha, along with the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti and other cultural organisations of the taluk, plans to hold seminars in villages of Sagar taluk to highlight the significance of the satyagraha.

The first programme of the anniversary year was held recently at Vadnala village, near Sagar, where a memorial to Ganapathiyappa stands. Speaking at the event, Meti Mallikarjun, professor of linguistics at Sahyadri College, Shivamogga, drew comparisons between the Kagodu Satyagraha and two other landmark movements – the Chavdar Tank Satyagraha led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1927, which challenged the exclusion of untouchables from a public water tank, and the Dandi Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi. He said it paved the way for significant legislation in the years that followed.

Theatre to retell

Shivamogga Rangayana, the State government’s theatre repertory, has proposed to adapt novelist Na. D’Souza’s celebrated novel *Kolaga* – which is based on the Kagodu Satyagraha – for the stage this year.

The State government has announced financial support for the production in its Budget. Separately, activists in Sagar are also planning to stage plays drawing on narratives from the days of the satyagraha.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has negotiated for the purchase of the Schedule property from its owners **Mr. Pravin Shah, Mrs. Sangeetha.R, Mrs. Kavitha, Mrs. Nanda Devi, Mr. M. Inderchand and Mr. H. Kistur Chand** for valuable consideration. Any Person/s, firm/s, institution/s etc., claiming to have any right, title and interest in the Schedule property or having any claims/objections of whatsoever nature, to the proposed sale of Schedule property in favour of our client, are required to lodge/intimate their claims/objections with documentary evidence in support thereof to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which our client shall proceed with the purchase of Schedule property without any reference to any such claim and the same if any shall be considered as waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of vacant residential **Site bearing Number 3, 4, 22, 23** and **24,** Property No.150200200700720064, Gramapanchyath Property No.207/11/1B/3/4/22/23/24, formed in Converted Sy.No. 11/1A2 and 11/1B, Situated at, **Makali Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru,** Measuring **East to West 120 feet and North to South 150 feet, in Totally measuring 18000 Sq.ft or 1672.25 Sq.Mts,** and bounded on:

East by: Site Number 2 and 25
West by: Site Number 5 and 21,
North by: Road,
South by: 30 feet Road.

Mr. Shanmukha. M.S,
S.V.H.Law Associates,
Advocates & Legal consultants,
No.201, 2nd Floor, Brigade Links, 1st Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru 560 020.
Mob: 9448615561
Place: Bangalore Date: 02.06.2026

INBRIEF

Eleven persons held after CID busts online betting network

Eleven persons were arrested by the Telangana CID's Special Investigation Team (SIT) for allegedly operating a multi-State illegal online betting network linked to the Dafabet platform, following an investigation into the loss of nearly ₹10 lakh by a software engineer from Karimnagar. The CID seized three luxury vehicles, including BMW, Mercedes and Kia Seltos cars, eight laptops, two iPads, 26 mobile phones, five passports and ₹3,21,900 in cash.

Southern Railway to operate trains from Palani to Kerala

The Southern Railway will operate special trains between Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala and Podanur Junction in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, via Palani. Train No. 06079 Thiruvananthapuram North (Kochuveli)-Podanur Junction Express Special will leave Thiruvananthapuram North at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and reach Podanur Junction at 6.45 a.m. the next day. Train No. 06080 will leave Podanur at 5 p.m. on Thursdays and arrive at the Kerala capital at 7.15 a.m. the next day.

'A.P. spent ₹65,887 crore on pensions since July 2024'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that the State government distributed over ₹65,887 crore under the NTR Bharosa pension programme since July 2024, and that about ₹32,000 crore was being spent annually on pensions alone. He also said, in June, ₹2,729 crore has been allocated for pensions to 62.34 lakh beneficiaries. Mr. Naidu was at a gathering of beneficiaries at the 21st Pedala Sevalo programme in Kakinada on Monday.

Meeting with Rahul today for final call on Cabinet formation

Lobbying for ministerial berths reaches crescendo as most leaders camp in Delhi; Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar meet Randeep Singh Surjewala with their list of preferences

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The wait for a decision on new Cabinet formation in Karnataka has been pushed by a day.

After the much-awaited discussion of senior Congress leaders involving Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday evening was postponed, the leaders are likely to meet on Tuesday morning.

Preparations under way for the swearing in ceremony of D.K. Shivakumar near the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

A source said the party is likely to keep about four Cabinet berths vacant after the Cabinet formation is completed in phases

Swearing-in ceremony

While the swearing-in ceremony of the newly-elected Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader D.K. Shivakumar is scheduled for Wednesday evening, the entire Congress leadership from Karnataka seems to have shifted to Delhi for lobbying for Cabinet berths.

Though Mr. Shivakumar and outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reached Delhi by afternoon on Monday, the meeting of all important central leaders scheduled for Monday could not take place since Mr. Gandhi returned to the capital late in the evening, sources said, adding that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal met to discuss Karnataka developments.

It is learnt that Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar also met Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala with their list of preferences for Cabinet berths.

The outgoing Chief Minister is also learnt to have met Mr. Venugopal separately, while Mr. Shivakumar too is expected to meet them.

Size and composition

The size and composition of the Cabinet, along with other issues - such as having Deputy Chief Ministers, and a coordination committee, a demand that has come from the outgoing Chief Minister's camp - is to be discussed.

Another source said that the party is likely to keep about four Cabinet berths vacant after the Cabinet formation is completed in phases.

"With such large number of leaders seeking Cabinet berth, it is likely that four berths could be kept vacant to accommodate leaders if trouble engulfs the government with dissidence," the source said.

Yathindra says

Yathindra Siddaramaiah, MLC, one of the strong contenders for a Cabinet berth, told reporters that he was not looking for the post of Deputy Chief Minister.

When asked about his prospects of getting into the Cabinet, he said, "Last time when I met the high command, Mr. Rahul Gandhi has assured me that my interest will be taken care of and will be taken into the Cabinet. So, I am hopeful. I will be happy with whatever portfolio is given."

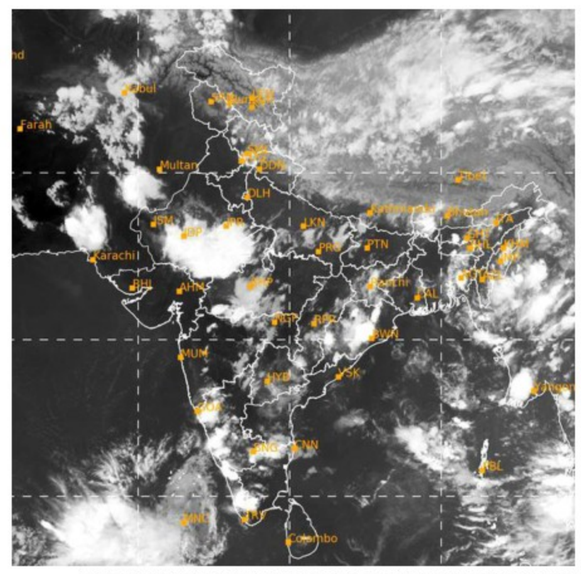
On the suggestions of having coordination committee to be headed by Mr. Siddaramaiah, he said, "It was a suggestion in the last meeting. But there will be a detailed discussion on it and only then will we come to know the advantages and disadvantages of it."

Meanwhile, a large number of legislators - both members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council - are camping in Delhi to lobby with senior leaders for Cabinet berths. "Many of those who were in Siddaramaiah's Cabinet as well as those who have been seeking Cabinet berths in the last few months are in Delhi," sources said.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Mr. Kharge in Delhi, former Minister Ishwar Khandre said that he had given a "report card" of his performance to the Congress president. "Whatever responsibility high commands gives me, I will discharge my duty sincerely and honestly in the interest of the party and government."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.6	27.3	Kurnool	—	39.6	29.2
Ahmedabad	—	40.8	30.0	Lucknow	2	34.1	24.4
Aizawl	44	29.7	22.6	Madurai	—	38.5	25.1
Bengaluru	—	31.6	21.0	Mangaluru	—	33.6	23.4
Bhopal	—	37.6	27.1	Mumbai	—	34.9	29.0
Bhubaneswar	—	38.4	27.0	Mysuru	3	33.0	19.8
Chandigarh	—	36.0	22.8	New Delhi	—	36.3	24.9
Chennai	—	40.1	28.7	Patna	—	37.5	27.5
Coimbatore	0.5	36.0	23.2	Port Blair	2	31.2	26.2
Dehradun	0.5	32.6	20.2	Prayagraj	—	39.0	25.6
Gangtok	—	25.5	17.1	Puducherry	—	37.7	27.7
Goa	1	35.6	28.5	Pune	—	38.1	24.4
Guwahati	—	36.9	25.8	Raipur	—	39.2	27.0
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	33.0	22.0
Hyderabad	—	39.0	29.0	Shillong	0.9	26.4	16.4
Imphal	44	31.3	21.9	Shimla	3	24.2	16.0
Jaipur	—	38.0	26.6	Srinagar	—	31.1	16.5
Kochi	0.4	31.6	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.7	25.5
Kohima	—	24.0	18.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	37.7	24.4
Kolkata	—	37.7	28.2	Vijayawada	—	35.4	28.0
Kozhikode	14	34.9	25.2	Visakhapatnam	—	35.6	27.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.68	..39	33	 58	89	.....
Bengaluru	...7	..17	56	 42	90	.....
Chennai	...5	..14	53	 41	53	.....
Delhi	...6	103	79	 54	...107	.....
Hyderabad	.15	..13	34	 63	88	.....
Kolkata	...8	..23	35	 70	96	.....
Lucknow	...8	..49	50	 42	66	.....
Mumbai	...7	102	33	 19	43	.....
Pune	..—	..18	68	 33	53	.....
Visakhapatnam	.22	..59	16	 53	...123	.....

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sikar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 333 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Phone tapping: MLA deposes before SIT

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

SIT has been taking statements of leaders who said their phones were tapped ahead of 2023 polls

Mahbubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy deposed before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged phone tapping case on Monday. Mr. Srinivas had earlier lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad police alleging that his phone had been tapped by the Telangana State Level Agency during the tenure of the BRS government.

The Congress MLA appeared before the SIT in Hyderabad after being served a notice. Officials said this was the second notice issued to the legislator. An earlier notice had been served on July 7, 2025, seeking his appearance. The SIT has been recording statements of legislators who had alleged that their phones were tapped ahead of the 2023 polls.

The case came to light after the arrest of former Telangana Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) Praneeth Rao on March 13, 2024. He was picked up following a complaint by Additional SP D. Ramesh, who alleged unlawful interception of phone calls of senior political leaders and officials.

Between seasons

Encouraging sign: As India eagerly awaits the arrival of the monsoon, clouds gather over a shrine atop the Jaalamangala Betta Fort, about 70 km from Bengaluru, on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Fault lines deepen in Kerala artistes group

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Actor Ansiba Hassan has accused AMMA panel members of making 'communal remarks' against her

The internal bickering in the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes seems to be worsening. Actor Ansiba Hassan, former joint secretary of AMMA who raised allegations against the office-bearers, did not appear before the executive committee on Monday to submit evidence as she has asked for setting up an independent panel.

She had accused actor Tiny Tom, an executive committee member, and a section of the office-bearers of "subjecting her to character assassination and making communal remarks targeting her." She had also accused association vice-president Lakshmipriya of filing a fake police complaint against her.

Ms. Hassan said that she does not expect to receive justice from a committee that included persons against whom she had raised allegations.

Meanwhile, Ms. Lakshmipriya appeared before the police on Monday in connection with a complaint by Ms. Hassan. She told media persons that she has evidence to prove that the allegations raised against her by Ms. Hassan were false.

Pumped Arsenal fans make screening of UCL final in Kochi a night to remember

M.P. Praveen
KOCHI

Ann Riya Joseph, a diehard supporter of the English Premier League giants Arsenal FC, took leave from her job as an Information Technology designer in Mumbai to attend the screening of her favourite club's UEFA Champions League (UCL) final against Paris Saint-Germain in Kochi last Saturday.

Football fever: Arsenal fans at the screening of UEFA Champions League final organised in Kochi on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

And it proved worthwhile, despite Arsenal's defeat in penalty shoot-out. The youngster had the night of her life at the screening organised by the Arsenal Kerala Supporters Club (AKSC) – officially recognised by Arsenal in 2016 – at the largest hall in Hotel Le Meridien, where over a thousand equally passionate fans from across the State and beyond converged before a giant screen.

"The gathering gifted us lifelong friendships with fellow Gooners. This was by far the biggest and best screening I have ever attended," said Ms. Ann.

AKSC claimed it was easily the biggest screening organised by a football fan club in India and probably among the largest globally outside the match venue and Arsenal's home city of North London. "We initially planned a smaller event for 350-400 fans. But once Arsenal won the Premier League – our first in 22 years – demand surged. We were forced to shift to a bigger hall and eventually close registrations once they touched the 1,000 mark. The final count was 1,014," said Tony George, chairman of the AKSC.

K. Yahya, who timed his leave from a job in Riyadh to attend the screening, travelled by train to Kochi with his family from Azhikode, while a group of 30-odd fans from Malappuram hired a bus.

'Ancient rock formations destroyed for real estate project in Secunderabad'

Swathi Vadlamudi
HYDERABAD

The Society to Save Rocks has brought to light a brazen attempt to encroach upon defence land in the Ammuguda area of Secunderabad Cantonment, where rock formations that are billions of years old are being destroyed systematically to make way for a real estate project.

Ammuguda hillocks are home to ancient rock formations and open scrub lands which are used by the Society members and local residents for trekking and rock climbing activities. It was here that athlete Milkha Singh trained before he made a mark on the global stage in the 1950s.

Barely standing: A signboard, indicating the defence land, shifted from original place to make way for a project. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Receiving information about the rock blasting, two of us went there on Friday morning, and found two bulldozers there. Later, on my way back from office in the evening, I went to check the status of the rocks, and found that one-third of the boulders had been blasted already," Sudheer Bhan, a rock enthusiast informed.

A video clip shared by the Society members shows a rusting signboard, a short distance from where the rocks were being destroyed, notifying the area as defence land. Heaps of rocks and cement bricks supporting its legs clearly indicate that it was moved from elsewhere, and planted there. Google Street View images show the original location of the board – right at the centre of the path leading to the boulders which now lay destroyed.

Local residents say that the attempts to encroach the land are not new. They started over a decade ago, and progressed at a slow pace before 2023 election. "After a brief lull following the elections, now they have increased the speed," a resident informed.

Perfect storm

Weak enforcement and poor regulation sustain illicit liquor among the poor

India has suffered multiple mass deaths due to consuming illicit liquor, across Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, and Maharashtra. The Malwani incident in 2015, which left over 100 people dead, prompted official promises of systemic reform that never fully materialised – neither there nor elsewhere. The Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad tragedy unfolded last week with more than a dozen victims of working-class backgrounds in poor neighbourhoods. Preliminary investigation has revealed a better than ad hoc supply chain with industry-grade methanol – the toxin behind most hooch tragedies– brought from outside the State and mixed with ethanol to produce a highly potent country liquor. The demand for licensed alcohol faces high State taxes, encouraging low-income individuals to turn to illicit liquor. On the other hand, adding industrial methanol increases the batch volume at negligible input cost, dramatically improving margins, although some people under investigation have also said during official questioning that it is not in the interest of 'regular' vendors to poison their 'customers'. Nonetheless, such operations are typically semi-visible local economies that get by on tolerance rather than secrecy, and so allegations of police and local authorities' complicity must be investigated. Early enforcement following most deadly incidents only arrests retail vendors; investigations into upstream suppliers and alleged kingpins have frequently proved uneven or inconclusive.

Indeed, these tragedies recur due to a perfect storm of factors that are able to repeatedly come together. One major regulatory gap in efforts to track methanol downstream is how easily it is pilfered and diverted for illicit liquor. Most victims are daily-wage labourers, and scholars have argued that the physical toll of manual labour creates a demand for cheap relief that, together with economic precarity and addiction, outweighs the wariness of poisonous substances. Since the victims are often from marginalised communities, the sustained political will needed to implement reforms – including better methanol accounting and affordable alcohol alternatives, required to break the cycle – is often lacking. In a 2024 analysis, public health experts found that higher prices for legal liquor push the poorest consumers toward the illicit market, which accounts for an estimated 40% of alcohol consumption in India. Likewise, total bans as in Bihar and Gujarat could deflect the market to criminal syndicates, where quality control is optional and oversight is poor. Finally, legal reviews have concluded that while the big fish are rarely caught, even those arrested are rarely convicted. Without these improvements, regulatory loopholes and weak enforcement will sustain illicit liquor as a public health crisis.

Joy and pain

Health gains from NFHS-6 are significant, but unaddressed needs exist

When triumph and disaster arrive at the same time, it is important to celebrate, but also, to take stock, assess, and pivot to address the lacuna. The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 data offer such an opportunity. The data for 2023-24 revealed some remarkable gains for India, but also exposed some unguarded pathways that will become disastrous if not attended to. The greatest of the gains came in the sector of child health – stunting is down by 17%; severe wasting is down 32%; institutional deliveries are at over 90%; and full immunisation coverage for children aged 12-23 months rose to over 87%. Additionally, the figures show that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) had stabilised at 2.0, below the replacement level of 2.1 Unequivocally, these are gains; ones that India has been working on for decades. It is an encouraging sign that the needle has finally moved, in these crucial sectors. These gains will have to be built upon, without any drop in service delivery, while remaining uncompromising on access or quality of services in the public sector. However, health managers need to heed the other side of the paradigm as well. NFHS-6 indicates a 'dual public health burden' – obesity (in three years, it had grown from 22.9% to 27.3% among men, while among women, from 24% to 30.7%) remains problematic while some level of malnutrition continues, besides the onslaught of lifestyle diseases. The survey also showed a decline in exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months, from 63.7% in NFHS-5 to 55.8% in NFHS-6. Breast feeding is essential to prevent infant malnutrition.

The NFHS, one of the largest cross-sectional household surveys in the world, could easily be considered the primary tool to define public policy, and evidence-based governance, besides tracking development indicators. The data it generates are crucial. Other India-level data from similar periods indicate similar trends; the SRS and the National Health Accounts Survey reveal the lack of focus or funds for lifestyle diseases, and metabolic disorders. The danger of letting this continue will be known sooner rather than later, as India progresses through a demographic transition to a greyer nation. At this stage, transformations are still possible. Setting up comprehensive screening programmes for NCDs, stressing on nation-wide behaviour change communication on diet and exercise, and ensuring higher taxes on sugared beverages and packaged foods are all techniques that will help reduce, and limit the burden, of NCDs. Bolstering health systems to tackle these NCDs, once they set in, at every level – village, town and city – is also critical.

IMEC is caught between commerce and geopolitics

Rajeev Agarwal

Retired colonel, a Senior Research Consultant at CRF, Delhi, and the author of 'Between Tehran and Tel Aviv – Gaza's Story of Unending War'

The ongoing war in Iran has shattered many myths and brought to light realities that expose the structural vulnerabilities of the existing world order. Iran, which was no match for the combined military might and technological superiority of Israel and the United States, has not only withstood the military onslaught but has also retaliated in ways that were neither expected nor planned for. Nearly three months into the conflict, although a fragile ceasefire is holding, there appears to be no immediate solution to end the war or achieve the politico-military objectives that Israel and the U.S. set at its outset. While Iran has suffered major losses to its leadership, infrastructure and military assets, the American military has also incurred unprecedented losses.

Lessons from the Iran conflict

A recent U.S. Congressional Research Service report has noted that 42 U.S. aircraft have been lost or damaged so far during "Operation Epic Fury" – the war with Iran – which includes fifth generation stealth fighters such as the F-35. Plus, the ability to intercept Iranian missiles and drones has been severely degraded as more than half the total inventory of Patriot, Tomahawk and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missiles have been expended. With more than 240 American targets reportedly hit by Iran, the conflict has shattered the myth that military superiority alone will guarantee an outright victory. Several of the asymmetric tactics employed by Iran have caught the U.S. and Israel on the back foot.

Another reality check underscored by this war is the critical importance of global choke points and how their blockade can severely disrupt the global economy. Iran, by imposing a blockade on the Strait of Hormuz early in the conflict, has virtually brought the global economy to its knees. Nearly 20 million barrels of crude oil, accounting for about a third of global oil supplies, pass through this narrow sea passage every day. India is among the countries most affected, as it imports nearly 88% of its crude oil requirements, amounting to about 1.8 billion barrels annually. While the world grapples with the blockade and works to diversify its energy sources, one thing is clear: there is an urgent need to explore and develop alternative connectivity options beyond existing trade routes, particularly maritime routes. New routes and corridors must be developed that avoid the two 'C's – conflict zones and choke points.

However, this realisation is neither new nor have countries been idle in pursuing solutions. Transnational connectivity projects such as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) were conceived precisely for this purpose. The INSTC was designed to bypass the Suez Canal choke point, while the overland component of the BRI across Asia and Europe seeks to reduce dependence on both the Malacca Strait and the Suez Canal. Another major connectivity project is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Unlike the other initiatives, IMEC traverses parts of West Asia, a region that has been significantly affected by the current conflict.

> The Iran conflict strengthens the case for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) while simultaneously complicating its execution

The IMEC framework

What is IMEC? The IMEC is a transformative and ambitious connectivity initiative that was officially announced at the G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023. It seeks to connect India with Europe across the Arabian Peninsula, bypassing the traditional choke point of the Suez Canal. The project envisions a multimodal economic corridor integrating railways, ports, highways, energy networks and digital infrastructure to enhance trade, investment and connectivity. Unlike conventional transport corridors, IMEC is conceived as a holistic and multidimensional infrastructure project encompassing sea routes, rail networks, pipelines, undersea high-speed data links, green hydrogen corridors and transnational energy transmission grids.

The proposed structure has three distinct sections. The eastern section links India with West Asia through sealinks to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The central section consists of an overland route across West Asia, traversing the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel, and culminating at the port of Haifa on Israel's Mediterranean coast. The western leg of the corridor is sea-based, connecting Haifa to various European ports, beyond which the continent's extensive transportation network takes over.

What has happened due to the war? Soon after IMEC was announced, the war in Gaza broke out on October 7, 2023, placing the project on the back burner. Major areas of the originally envisioned corridor, particularly those involving Israel and the port of Haifa, were directly affected by the conflict.

Soon after the Iran-Israel '12-Day War' in June 2025, there was a concerted effort to move the project forward. However, the ongoing conflict involving Iran has once again thrown a spanner into its execution. Key ports in the UAE, particularly Jebel Ali and Fujairah, have been repeatedly targeted by Iran, while disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have exposed the geographical vulnerabilities of these ports.

Another critical fault line exposed by the war is the deep faultlines and divergence in the positions adopted by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the war. Both countries are key partners in IMEC, and any adversarial posture between them could prove to be a major setback for the corridor, whose success depends on smooth coordination and seamless connectivity across the region. The UAE's April 2026 announcement that it was opting out of the global oil grouping, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and reports of its growing strategic coordination with Israel, including the deployment of Israeli defence systems such as the Iron Beam, risk widening differences between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. Such developments are unlikely to augur well for either regional stability or the future of IMEC.

Navigating the challenges

The war in Iran has highlighted two important issues for both West Asia and IMEC. First, there is an urgent need for projects such as IMEC that can bypass conflict zones and choke points. However, for such initiatives to succeed, they must also navigate the region's geopolitical complexities, including the rapidly evolving dynamics among key partners such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

To address the first challenge, IMEC must evolve into a broader and more flexible framework while keeping open the possibility of reverting to the originally envisioned alignment once the conflict subsides. To this end, the option of developing key ports in Oman – such as Salalah, Duqm and Muscat – as eastern entry points could be explored, as they are located well away from the conflict-prone Strait of Hormuz. Similarly, on the western end, until the port of Haifa becomes a secure transit hub, a western spur passing through Egypt and terminating at one of its major Mediterranean ports could offer a viable alternative. Egypt already possesses the logistics ecosystem required to support IMEC, including the Suez Canal Economic Zone, six operational ports and four industrial zones specialising in green hydrogen, liquefied natural gas, shipbuilding and other future-oriented sectors.

To address the second challenge, countries such as India, which enjoy close relations and the trust of both Saudi Arabia and the UAE, will have to navigate a delicate but critical diplomatic terrain. European countries such as Italy and France, which are positioning themselves as key champions of IMEC in Europe, will also need to play an active role. The growing recognition of IMEC's strategic importance was evident during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Europe in May 2026. While elevating their bilateral ties to a Special Strategic Partnership, India and Italy reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on IMEC, recognising its transformative potential to reshape and promote global trade, connectivity and prosperity.

The bottom line is clear. The war in Iran has underscored the need for transnational connectivity projects such as IMEC that can bypass conflict zones and strategic choke points. However, for such initiatives to succeed, they must overcome the geopolitical complexities in West Asia.

Orbital rivalry — the challenge of China's space power

Harinder Singh

Former corps commander

China's expanding counter-space capabilities are a cause for concern. While no conflict has ever been fought in space, the incentive to influence activities on earth by controlling outer space remains a potential trigger for future confrontation. Beijing's development of anti-satellite missiles and co-orbital systems blurs the line between routine space operations and counter-space activities.

The key question is how Beijing views its space ambitions and control of outer space, and what India can do to safeguard its vital interests in this domain.

Beijing's space ambitions

While the Chinese space programme emphasises the peaceful use of space, evidence suggests that China is preparing for an orbital war.

In January 2007, it targeted its own satellite from earth. In October 2015, China tested an exo-atmospheric vehicle designed to strike a hostile satellite. In 2022, China used a robotic spacecraft to push a defunct satellite into the graveyard orbit. In 2024, it demonstrated an orbital dog-fight. There is a clear research and developmental push for fielding offensive capabilities in space.

China's space ambitions operate at two levels. First, it seeks to remain competitive in the emerging space race, both technologically and numerically. China has around 1,900 satellites in orbit, compared to more than 8,000 American satellites, including the SpaceX satellites.

Second, it recognises the military and economic implications of the weaponisation of space. A single strike could disrupt communications, power grids, navigation systems, financial markets, and military command-and-control (C2) and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) networks.

Accordingly, China aims to land on the moon by 2036, launch a nuclear-powered shuttle by 2040, and establish a solar power system by 2050. Chinese start-ups such as LandSpace, iSpace and OneSpace are challenging rivals such as SpaceX and Blue Origin. China is also exploring lunar and asteroid mining for energy and critical minerals. The growing demand for energy-efficient data centres is likely to further intensify the space race.

> China's counter-space rise demands stronger resilience and deterrence from India

China is seeking to assert control over outer space in two distinct ways. First, by leveraging space-based assets to safeguard its military and economic systems. Second, by competing with its rivals – both numerically and technologically – to maintain space superiority. Its most immediate competition is with Starlink in low-earth orbit (LEO). China plans to deploy more than 36,000 LEO satellites by 2030. This rivalry could intensify if China were to become the first to establish a presence on the far side of the moon or demonstrate a particular interest in exploiting asteroid resources. Such developments could create an escalatory dynamic in an environment that lacks a comprehensive regulatory framework.

Consequently, China's capabilities are evolving in three key areas. First, kinetic attack systems such as the DN-3 and SC-19 missiles, which can physically destroy satellites. Second, laser-based systems that can dazzle or blind satellites, disrupting navigation and communications. Third, co-orbital satellites, such as the SJ and TJS series, designed to interfere with or dislodge other satellites from orbit. Together, these capabilities could enable the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to cripple Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), GPS and communication networks, shaping the battlespace during the first 24 to 48 hours of a conflict.

Implications for India

If a contingency arises in Taiwan, the PLA is likely to first blind ISR and communication networks before resorting to hard-kill attacks. This would give Beijing time to shape the narrative, whereas a hard kill could trigger immediate escalation.

The U.S. would then have to assess China's military objectives, and, if an invasion proceeds, neutralise its counter-space capabilities. While both sides may lose assets, the U.S. would likely retain an advantage due to its greater redundancy and resilience. The Taiwan scenario applies to India albeit on a lesser scale. India has around 60 operational satellites as against 400-plus Chinese military satellites alone, which implies lesser redundancy. Losing five to six satellites will hurt India more.

Hypothetically, China could strike at the CARTOSAT/RISAT series, which could lead to loss of tactical-level imagery for hours, if not days. Instead, if it only choose to lase as these satellites as they pass over the Line of Actual Control, it could lead to temporary blind spots. They could even deploy jammers to disable India's NavIC system.

The key strategic takeaway is that while China can conduct peacetime harassment using lasers and jammers, or temporarily blind a few satellites during a border crisis, it cannot inflict crippling damage without destroying a large number of Indian satellites and risking severe Kessler Syndrome consequences. While Mission Shakti has strengthened India's deterrence posture, its utility remains restricted. Moreover, a single successful test does not guarantee operational reliability, and India still lacks co-orbital capabilities to counter satellites such as the SJ and TJS series.

Safeguarding India's interests

A few measures are pertinent. First, India must expand its space industry beyond the Indian Space Research Organisation to increase satellite production and launch capacity. Greater capacity translates into greater redundancy. Second, it should disaggregate large satellite programmes, such as GSAT, into smaller constellations, which are more resilient and survivable. Third, India must strengthen the protection of its ground space assets to mitigate the impact of hard-kill attacks. Fourth, it should enhance data-sharing arrangements with strategic partners so that, in the event of satellite losses, critical services can be restored through commercial or partner networks within hours.

Besides, India should also clearly define its red lines and the scope of a proportionate response to ensure that China fully understands the potential escalation ladder.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RCB's win

Congratulations to Royal Challengers Bengaluru for securing back-to-back IPL titles. If winning the trophy in 2025 ended an 18-year wait, retaining it has erased RCB's long-standing "underachiever" tag. It reflects their transformation from a team reliant on individual brilliance to a disciplined unit that thrives under pressure. Virat Kohli's match-winning performances in successive finals further cement his status as one of the IPL's all-time greats. With a balanced mix of experienced stars and emerging talent, RCB's dominance could reshape the league's competitive landscape.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Website glitch

I would like to draw the attention of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) to a server-side error on its website, namely the "Spring Framework Transaction Failed" error.

As many aspirants are unable to submit their applications due to this issue, I request the SSC to rectify the error at the earliest and extend the application deadline by at least five days. This would ensure that candidates, particularly those in remote areas, are able to complete and submit their applications within the time slot.

Jayesh Vinod Jadhav,
Nashik, Maharashtra

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The FemTech industry's approach to PMOS

The global decision to rename Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) is a culmination of a decade-long collaboration between doctors, researchers, and patient groups. Led by Professor Helena Teede, Director of the Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation in Melbourne, the rationale for the change was published in *The Lancet* last month. At the heart of the renaming was a growing recognition that the term PCOS could not capture the condition's complexity, and reduced it to a reproductive disorder centred on the ovaries. It is a long overdue acknowledgement of the condition's multisystem nature as PMOS manifests through a wide range of endocrine, metabolic, reproductive, psychological, and dermatological symptoms.

Taru Jain

Senior design researcher at CoRE Stack — a digital public good for climate change resilience in rural India

Preeti Mudliar

DFAT-CAIR-Maitri Fellow at the Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne researching digital public infrastructures

India's FemTech response

Yet, even as the formal medical renaming to PMOS is enforced, India's FemTech (female technology) industry had already begun treating PCOS as a multisystem condition. A paper published in 2024 by the authors of this article titled, "Platforming PCOS Treatment Online: FemTech Logics of Care," showed how FemTech platforms curated integrated care packages that brought together general practitioners, diabetologists, endocrinologists, gynaecologists, dermatologists, nutritionists, fitness trainers, and psychologists to treat PCOS.

Backed by venture capital funding, FemTech platforms conducted extensive market research to identify the gaps in conventional healthcare systems that stymied the long-term management of PCOS. Several platform founders were themselves women who had struggled to navigate gynaecological care that centred fertility and weight loss as the individual responsibility of patients. Their experiences shaped the emergence of platforms that framed PCOS as requiring coordinated and long-term care. Platforms also sought to improve doctor-patient interactions by training gynaecologists to avoid prejudiced language around marital status, fertility, and body weight. Since many aspects of PMOS management could be coordinated remotely, digital consultations also offered women greater privacy and flexibility in a culture that stigmatises unmarried women visiting gynaecologists unchaperoned.

PMOS often first appears through irregular menstrual cycles. The underlying hormonal and metabolic imbalances can remain poorly understood for years delaying treatment. In both families and clinical settings, it is viewed primarily through the lens of fertility and weight loss, generating shame and anxiety around marriage prospects and hostility within marriages itself.

FemTech platforms positioned themselves as offering an integrated and non-judgemental approach to PCOS care. They foregrounded its multifaceted nature, and as of 2025, India's FemTech market was estimated to be worth $1.48 billion.

Limits of privatised care

However, reliance on FemTech platforms creates new vulnerabilities for long-term healthcare delivery. First, access to these platforms depends on the ability to afford uninterrupted internet connectivity and recurring subscription costs. As a result, these services cater disproportionately to urban, digitally savvy women. For most people, gynaecologists in conventional healthcare systems are usually the first point of contact when they start showing PMOS symptoms. Strengthening these systems is therefore essential to public health.

Second, as start-ups, FemTech platforms are vulnerable to market volatility. They are dependent on investor confidence. None of the platform founders who were interviewed had secured funding beyond the preliminary 'Series A round' and one of the platforms had to cease operations stranding patients. In the absence of regulatory safeguards, these issues weaken FemTech platforms' claim of being robust alternatives to conventional healthcare systems.

Third, while platforms attempt to improve gynaecologist-patient interactions, scaling such interventions is challenging without broader reforms in medical education and clinical training. The shortage of gynaecologists in India, particularly in rural regions, further intensifies this challenge.

The larger healthcare crisis

Therefore, while FemTech platforms address a real and underserved need, they equally reflect deeper infrastructural failures. The long-term solution to conditions such as PMOS requires investment in public healthcare infrastructure and medical education that move beyond a narrow, fertility-first framework. Doctor-patient interactions must become more inclusive and respectful to women. At the same time, it is important to recognise the strain under which gynaecologists work, particularly in public hospitals. Overcrowded conditions, high patient volumes, and inadequate infrastructure leave little room for privacy and counselling. While FemTech platforms may ease some pressures by coordinating care digitally, they cannot substitute public healthcare.

Moreover, discussions around PMOS rarely engage with broader environmental factors such as adulterated food, pollution, chronic stress, and toxins. If the shift from PCOS to PMOS is to be meaningful, it should encourage a deeper reconsideration of how chronic women's health conditions are understood, prevented, and cared for in India.

Discussions around PMOS rarely engage with broader environmental factors such as adulterated food, pollution, chronic stress, and toxins

Vizag data centre is a major challenge

If India needs Google's hyperscale hub, it is not yet ready for the facility

STATE OF PLAY

Vasudevan Mukunth

The Google Cloud India AI Hub, for which the technology giant and Andhra Pradesh recently broke ground in Visakhapatnam, is a sign that India is finally moving from providing information technology services and coding to owning infrastructure. While the facility is part of a larger digital infrastructure push in Visakhapatnam, expected to involve investments running to ₹1.25 lakh crore, there are also numerous second-order gains in the offing. The facility could strengthen downstream demand for high-end computing hardware, augmenting India's efforts to build semiconductor capacity under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, even if manufacturing viability will still depend on broader ecosystem factors.

The project has been integrated into the America-India Connect initiative, as part of which multiple international subsea cables will land in Visakhapatnam, creating India's second major gateway on the eastern seaboard. As a result, Indian data will have a direct connection from the east coast to South Africa and thereon to the U.S. without first being backhauled to Cochin, that too on Google's high-capacity cables. Likewise, in the east, data from Visakhapatnam can reach the U.S. via Singapore and Australia, no longer restricted to the Chennai-Singapore connection and thereafter to the U.S. on third-party cables. As a result, India's dependence on geopolitical stability in the Red Sea – through which cables from Mumbai pass before reaching Europe – will reduce. Similarly, within India, the Hub's location could move high-value technological activity away from expensive metropolitan cities, potentially redistributing growth.

Infrastructure problem

The Hub is an integrated complex with computational infrastructure and high-capacity data connectivity, and large power requirements. Its expected power demand of 1 GW makes it a so-called hyperscale hub, with the ability to run powerful artificial intelligence (AI) models.

But that is also a gateway to consider the not-inconsiderable challenges the project poses. For example, the Hub could attract firms handling sensitive data, especially in sectors where legal or regulatory preferences favour keeping data in India. However, while Google will thus lower costs for Indian firms, it will increase dependence on a single foreign provider's proprietary stack. As a result, India could become a site for "sovereign AI" – as Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said – only in name.

Second, even though AI GPU workloads are among the world's most power-guzzling uses of computing infrastructure, the Hub suggests AI is now an infrastructure problem: power, land, and water are the bottlenecks. The power demand may strain the local grid and result in knock-on effects for local residents and industries. While Google has pledged 100% use of renewable energy, the Hub will still feature a fleet of backup diesel generators, which will affect local air quality and microclimate.

If Google aspires to maintain its global average power usage effectiveness of 1.1 in Visakhapatnam's humid weather, it may need evaporative cooling, which is water-intensive. The district is periodically vulnerable to water stress, especially in summer. It depends heavily on inter-basin water transfers to meet its needs. In fact, it has the lowest groundwater levels for domestic, agricultural or industrial use in the State, as per the Water Resources and Information Management System. Facilities worldwide similar to the Hub are known to consume over 2 million litres per day per 100 MW. At 1 GW, the indicated demand is an eye-watering 20 million litres per day.

Rights groups have alleged that the State government assigned the project to a category that allowed it to sidestep a full environmental impact assessment and public hearings – measures that have forced Google, et al. in other countries to redesign data centres to be more sustainable. India still struggles to harmonise State-level incentives. Andhra Pradesh offers aggressive tax holidays and power subsidies yet they have not come with environmental benchmarks or 'green' capacity targets. A Central single-window could standardise public hearings and resource accounting. If India does not codify these safeguards, its climb up the digital stack will come at the cost of its environmental and democratic foundations.

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Remittances anchor the rupee, India's external balances

Despite doing the heavy lifting in tackling the pressure on the rupee, remittances are ignored in discussions due to overemphasis on FDI and FPI flows

DATA POINT

Puneet Bhasin

The Indian rupee has lost nearly 12% of its value against the U.S. dollar since May 2025. Several analysts have noted the consistent decline in net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) flows as a cause.

The ebbing of net FDI and FPI flows notably began much before the current energy crisis due to the war in West Asia. A declining trend in net FDI began in the second quarter (Q2) of 2021-2022. As of Q3 of 2025-26, net FDI was negative **(Chart 1)**. The declining trend in net FPI, which is also at a negative, started in Q4 of 2023-24 **(Chart 2)**.

It is commonly understood that a downward (depreciation) pressure is structurally inherent upon the rupee because of India's persistent Current Account (CA) deficit, which in turn stems from India's persistent trade deficit. Consequently, buoyant net positive FDI and FPI flows, recorded in the Financial Account (FA), are considered crucial to not only finance the CA Deficit (CAD), but to countervail the downward pressure on the rupee. However, there is an overemphasis on these two, at the cost of the other important flow for India, namely, remittances, recorded in the CA, which does the heavy lifting for both the financing of the CAD and in tackling the pressure on the rupee. Not accounting for remittances risks non-mitigation of a major external vulnerability: the ebbing of remittance flows that is also likely.

The CA primarily consists of three component flows: the trade deficit, the Net Primary Income (NPI) deficit and the Net Secondary Income (NSI) surplus **(Chart 3)**. The NPI mainly reflects the net negative balance of investment income earned by Indian residents on foreign assets and paid on India's external liabilities held by foreign counterparts. The NSI essentially accounts for its huge net positive remittance flows. India attracts the highest remittances (in $) by a wide margin. In 2024, India saw $138 billion in remittances.

They matter significantly for India's CAD and the rupee. Firstly, since mid-2013, remittances have on an average financed more than the entirety of India's trade deficit **(Chart 4)**. As a result, the CAD financed by the FA flows of FDI and FPI is a residual of the two persistent deficits in the CA, leftover after the remittances have financed their bulk. If not for India's high net remittances, its CAD would be much larger and the financing demands on the FA also higher.

Secondly, net remittances, averaging about 3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), are much higher than the net FDI and FPI flows. Thirdly, unlike, say FPI, remittances are not given to sudden halts, for they are largely driven by the income and savings decisions of the Indian diaspora and their respective familial needs back home. Fourthly, unlike FDI and FPI, remittances are transfers and not claims. Hence, they do not generate future liability outflows. Lastly, remittances have low transaction costs.

A lot rides on remittances now because the more the rupee slips, the more diaspora remitters are likely to wait till it bottoms out. Concomitantly, with the trade deficit likely to increase due to costlier energy imports, a wide gap can emerge in the remittances' ability to cover this deficit. This will in turn increase the CAD and its financing demands on the FA, at a time when net FDI and FPI flows are negative. Yet, despite their importance, analyses of remittances pale in comparison to those of FDI and FPI flows. It is perhaps because remittances are largely the result of small financial decisions by thousands of working-class Indians abroad, who do not animate globalised elites in the same way as talks of FDI and FPI do.

Merits of remittances

The data for the charts were sourced from the Reserve bank of India's Database on Indian Economy. The author is with the Center for the Study of the Indian Economy (CSIE) at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru. With inputs from Anshuman Singh, also at CSIE

CHART 1: Quarterly net Foreign Direct Investment in $ million ( ) and as a % share of GDP ( )

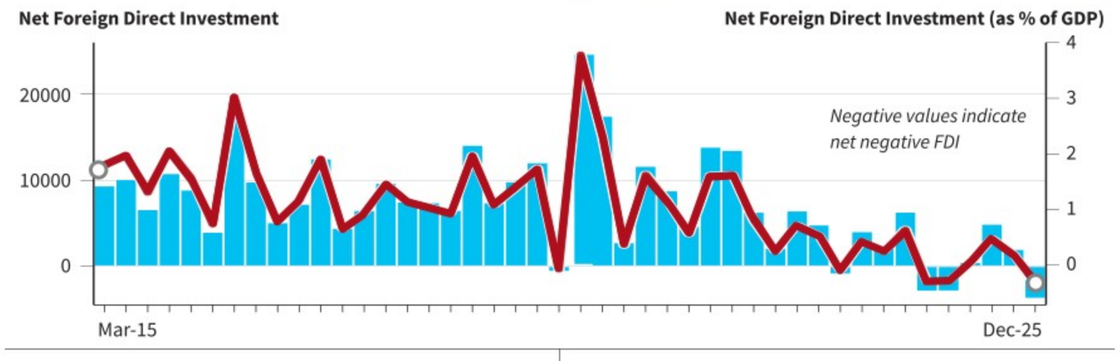


CHART 2: Quarterly net Foreign Portfolio Investment (as % of GDP). Negative values indicate net negative FPI

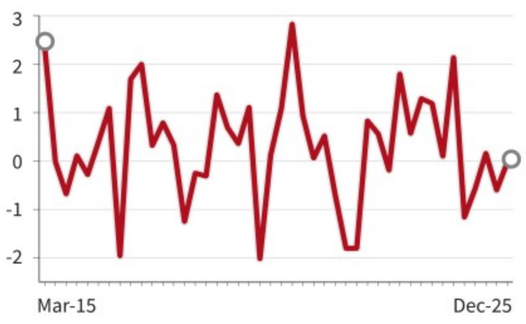


CHART 4: Quarterly net remittances as % of trade deficit. The two blue bars in June and September 2020 indicate trade surplus. All other quarters saw trade deficits

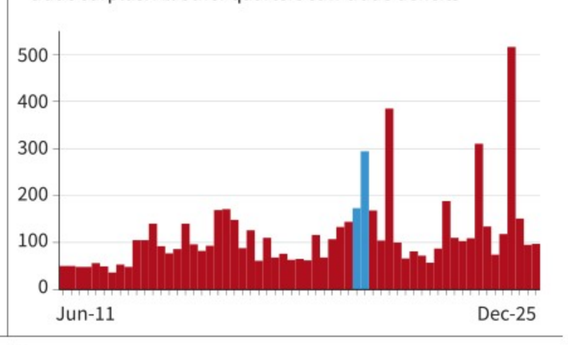
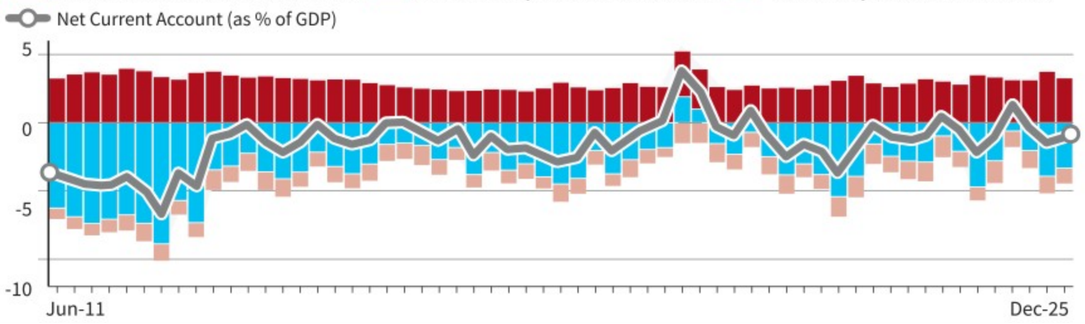


CHART 3: Decomposition of current account (% of GDP, quarterly)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1976

Tethered balloons for TV coverage: study findings

New Delhi, June 1: Balloon can be used instead of a satellite to provide television coverage throughout India, according to a study by the Information, Planning and Analysis Group (IPAG) of the Electronics Commission.

The study says that 18 balloon-borne transmitters can do the job at one-fifth the investment cost for the conventional system involving a network of ground-based transmitters. The annual running cost is estimated to be half that of the terrestrial system.

Hung by means of special plastic tethers, the balloons will hover at about 3,300 metres from ground, each balloon beaming television programmes to a radious of upto 240 km.

Tethered Balloon Communication System (TBCS) has been suggested as a viable alternative to the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE), which will end in July with the withdrawal of the American satellite ATS-6.

The IPAG study says that SITE continuation with TBCS would require four balloons and cost Rs. 26 crores. The annual running cost would be Rs 6.5. crores.

The IPAG panel has been set up to study the development of tethered balloon technology in India and its possible civilian and military applications. Substantial infrastructure for balloon technology is said to be already available in India.

Tethered balloons are being developed at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Bombay.

TIFR-designed and fabricated balloons have been flown upto 300 metres with 10-kg, payload and to 3,000 metres with 50kg, payload, according to IPAG.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1926

Reduced telephone rate

Simla, June 1: The Government of India in the Industries Department have sanctioned as experimental measure for one year with effect from 1st June 1926, that the telephone calls throughout India and Burma between hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. will be charged at half the usual rates subject to the condition that the minimum charge for such a call at reduced rates will not be less than six annas.

From Page One

Industrial output slows to 4.9% in new data series

The new IIP series has also enabled users with a formula to link the older and new series of data to ensure comparability.

Within the manufacturing sector, which constitutes about 75% of the IIP basket of goods, six industries contracted, including major ones like manufacture of "coke and refined petroleum products", which shrank 0.4%, and "wearing apparel" industry in which the output declined 7%. Manufacturing of wood products other than furniture shrank the most, with output dipping 12.5%.

The rest of the industry categories within the manufacturing sector grew, with electrical equipment industry output increasing 19.2% in April 2026.

Under use-based classification, the series classifies the industries into primary, capital goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure/construction goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables.

Growth in three of the six categories slowed in April 2026 on a year-on-year basis. Primary goods, consumer durables, and consumer non-durables grew 0.8%, 4.3% and 2.8% respectively in April 2026, slower than the same month in 2025. Intermediate goods output grew faster by 0.19% clocking a growth rate of 7.7% in April 2026, as against the same month in the previous fiscal.

Capital goods and infrastructure goods output growth quickened to 16% and 7.1% respectively in the reporting month as against the same month in the previous fiscal.

'No space for anti-India elements in Myanmar'

Mr. Misri said later that issue of the presence of insurgents from its northeastern region on Myanmar territory was raised by Mr. Modi in course of formal talks with the visiting dignitary.

The visit of Mr. Hlaing is being viewed as a pragmatic engagement of Myanmar by India despite the conflict situation that has been continuing in that country since the February 2021 coup that deposed the National League for Democracy (NLD) government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Speaking to the media after the discussion, Mr. Misri said detailed discussion was held during the talks to "find a way" out of the civil conflict, saying that India believes in "sustained dialogue" among all the stakeholders to deal with the conflict in Myanmar. He added that India does not believe in "disengagement" when it comes to Myanmar.

"I should underline that our engagement with Myanmar is not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangement in that country. The Prime Minister raised the issue that there is a need for an enduring peace as Myanmar finds its way back to democracy," said Mr. Misri explaining that the Indian concerns on continued detention of Ms. Suu Kyi was raised during a "free-wheeling" talk.

He further said that the two sides discussed infrastructure projects like the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and the trilateral Moreh-Mae Tsot highway that was to connect India's northeast with Myanmar via Thailand - both of which have been "delayed" by the conflict in Myanmar.

"Right now, the obstacle that faces both of these projects is the security situation in Myanmar," said Mr. Misri, adding that there are "active hostilities" currently under way on the Kaladan highway between the Myanmar Army and the ethnic armed organisations of the Rakhine State.

Mr. Misri further said that the two sides discussed defence cooperation on Monday that will cover training of Myanmar troops for United Nations peacekeeping. Mr. Misri also said that the defence cooperation between the two sides included concerns related to security and safety of the India-Myanmar border spanning 1,643 km.

Meghalaya and Nagaland CMs call for release of 20 hostages

Conrad Sangma writes to apex social bodies of Nagas and Kukis of Manipur for immediate release of all hostages; Neiphiu Rio seeks Home Minister's intervention for release of 6 Liangmai Nagas

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma and, right, his Nagaland counterpart, Neiphiu Rio, have appealed for peace. FILE PHOTO

The Chief Ministers of Meghalaya and Nagaland have sought the early release of 20 civilians – 14 Kukis and six Nagas – allegedly held hostage by armed groups in Manipur after three church leaders were killed in an ambush on May 13.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said he, as the national president of the National People's Party and "a fellow citizen and Christian", was deeply pained by the continued captivity of the villagers from Kangpokpi district in Manipur.

"The abduction of civilians, who have no role in any conflict, inflicts unbearable pain and deepens divisions within our society. Mothers, children, and elders are living in fear and uncertainty. Such acts only widen the gap between communities that have lived together for generations," he wrote in a letter addressed to the United Naga Council (UNC) and the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM).

The UNC and KIM are apex social bodies of the Nagas and Kukis of Manipur, respectively. The two communities are involved in the conflict that started with a brawl in February.

Mr. Sangma appealed for the immediate release of all hostages and called for their safety, medical care, food, and communication with families. He urged all parties to pursue dialogue over violence.

"Let this act of compassion mark the beginning of healing for Manipur. The people of the Northeast are watching, and history will remember those who choose humanity in times of conflict," he said.

'Deep concern'

In a letter to the UNC, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said that he had a telephonic conversation with Union Home Minister Amit Shah to convey the "deep concern" of the Nagas over the abduction of the six community members in Manipur. The six, allegedly held captives by Kuki groups, are Liangmai Nagas.

"I requested his (Mr. Shah's) personal intervention and urged that all possible efforts be made by the Government of India to trace the six abducted persons, secure their release and bring the perpetrators to justice," he wrote.

Mr. Rio said Mr. Shah assured him that all necessary measures would be taken by the agencies concerned to trace the abducted persons, identify those responsible for the abduction, and ensure that the law takes its course.

Mr. Rio further urged the UNC to prevail upon the Nagas who have allegedly kept 14 Kuki civilians in their custody, and facilitate their safe return.

On May 15, the security forces facilitated a hostage-for-hostage exchange to help secure the release of 14 Kukis and 14 Nagas.

Centre clears five new judges for SC; strength rises to 37

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

V. Mohana

The Centre on Monday cleared the appointment of five judges to the Supreme Court, taking the court's strength to 37, close to its revised sanctioned strength of 38.

In a post on X, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said the President had approved the appointments under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.

Those appointed are Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court; Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court; Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh; and senior advocate V. Mohana.

Ms. Mohana was one of the leading counsels in a series of cases highlighting structural career inequalities for women officers in the armed forces. Currently, the Supreme Court has only one woman judge, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who is also part of the Supreme Court Collegium. Justice Nagarathna was appointed to the Supreme Court in August 2021.

The appointments follow the Collegium's recommendation on May 27, 2026.

The development comes weeks after the Centre, on May 5, increased the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges through the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026.

IAF chief visits France to hold talks on Rafale acquisition

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh arrived in France on Monday on a four-day visit amid India's move to acquire 114 Rafale fighter jets in a deal estimated to be worth ₹3.25 lakh crore.

The visit comes days after the Union Ministry of Defence issued a Letter of Request to the French government, formally initiating the acquisition process, sources said, in one of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest-ever fighter aircraft procurement programmes.

France is expected to respond within the next two-three months, and negotiations are likely to conclude within a year.

During his visit, the Air Chief Marshal will interact with senior French military officials, and visit Dassault Aviation, manufacturer of the Rafale fighter aircraft. The proposed acquisition is part of the IAF's multi-role fighter aircraft programme to address the declining strength of the fighter squadron.

BSF, Bangladesh border force to hold Director-General-level talks next week

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The BSF and BGB will meet amid Bengal government's 'detect, delete and deport' drive targeting undocumented migrants. PTI

The first round of the biannual Director-General-level talks between the border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh is likely to be held in Delhi from June 8 to 11, government sources confirmed.

This will be the first such meeting following the formation of a new government under the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the neighbouring country and after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in West Bengal for the first time.

The Directors-General of Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) will meet amid the West Bengal government's ongoing "detect, delete and deport" drive targeting undocumented Bangladeshi migrants.

The meeting, originally scheduled for February, was postponed due to the Assembly election in West Bengal.

Over the past week, Home Minister Amit Shah visited forward areas along the Rajasthan and Gujarat borders and flagged demographic changes and radicalisation as key security challenges. In his next leg of visit to the border areas of Tripura on June 5 and 6, and West Bengal around June 14 and 15, he is likely to review border security and also discuss infiltration-related issues with officials.

The BSF is likely to raise issues related to trans-border crimes, assaults on BSF personnel and Indian civilians by Bangladesh-based miscreants, construction of single-row fencing and action against Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) operating in Bangladesh.

In 2023 and 2024, the number of personnel injured in attacks by miscreants along the Bangladesh border stood at 74 and 72, respectively. The BGB, during the past two Director-General-level talks, had raised concerns over "illegal push-ins" of individuals, including Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN), into Bangladesh by the BSF.

'Exfiltration' trends

In 2024, as many as 1,049 undocumented individuals were apprehended while leaving the country through the Bangladesh border. In 2025, more than 4,000 undocumented persons were intercepted by the BSF while attempting to leave the country through the border, a government official said.

Officially recorded as "exfiltration", the movement of undocumented migrants without passports and visas through the Bangladesh border is not new, the official added.

"We are under instructions not to let any illegal migrant enter the country, but if undocumented people want to leave, we do not stop them. Their biometrics and other details are recorded before they leave. If they have managed to procure identity documents such as Aadhaar or PAN card, we write to the authorities concerned to cancel those documents and blacklist their biometrics," said the official.

The talks are held twice every year, alternately in India and Bangladesh, to facilitate both the border guarding forces to establish robust systems through which cooperation in border guarding and border management is ensured. India and Bangladesh share a 4,096-km-long border.

Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry

New chief of Central Air Command takes charge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry on Monday assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Indian Air Force's Central Air Command.

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1989, Air Marshal Chaudhry is a highly accomplished officer with extensive experience in operational, staff, and diplomatic assignments.

Prior to taking over the Central Air Command, he was serving as the Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters, Southern Air Command.

India and Australia discuss maritime security, agree to advance defence industrial relations

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Australia's Deputy PM Richard Marles with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

India and Australia on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening defence and security cooperation across the Indo-Pacific, with a strong focus on maritime security, defence industry collaboration, interoperability, and emerging technologies.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles co-chaired the second India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. The two leaders reviewed the significant progress made in defence ties since the inaugural dialogue held in October 2025 and advanced the vision of the Prime Ministers of the two countries for a stronger strategic partnership.

Speaking during an exclusive interaction with a select group of mediapersons, Mr. Marles said the dialogue marked another significant step in elevating defence ties between the two countries. He highlighted substantial progress in information sharing, joint air-to-air refuelling arrangements, and military exercises, describing the current phase as a high point in Australia-India defence cooperation.

Mr. Marles said defence cooperation would be a major component of discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during their upcoming summit. He noted that both sides were making significant progress towards finalising a renewed Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation.

Strong pillar

Emphasising the importance of maritime security, Mr. Marles said cooperation at sea, including underwater activities, had become a fundamental pillar of the partnership. He said Australia and India were exploring cooperation in advanced and innovative technologies aimed at enhancing underwater security and maritime domain awareness.

A key outcome of the meeting was the decision to accelerate cooperation in the maritime domain. Both sides discussed progress towards finalising a Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Road Map and agreed to enhance maritime domain awareness through maritime patrol aircraft operations and undersea initiatives.

They also agreed to begin work on a Memorandum of Understanding on the Provision of Defence Articles and Defence Services, marking a significant step towards expanding defence industrial collaboration.

Delhi HC recognises 'right to be forgotten', lays down rules for de-indexing judicial records

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petitioners sought removal of personal information from digital public domain

The Delhi High Court has held that the "right to be forgotten" flows from the constitutional right to privacy under Article 21 and enables individuals to seek removal of personal information from public digital accessibility when it no longer serves a legitimate public purpose.

Justice Sachin Datta, in a 144-page judgment delivered on Friday, laid down a framework governing de-indexing of judicial records from search engines and masking of personal identifiers from publicly accessible court records.

"India presently lacks a comprehensive statutory framework explicitly governing the right to be forgotten. However, the absence of specific legislation does not preclude constitutional courts from recognising and enforcing this right," the High Court remarked.

The court's decision came while hearing over 30 petitions filed by a diverse group of individuals, including persons who had been acquitted of criminal charges, parties to matrimonial disputes, persons whose proceedings had been quashed or settled, and individuals whose names appeared incidentally in judicial records.

'Harm to reputation'

The petitioners shared a common grievance that the continued availability and name-based searchability of judicial records bearing their names in the digital public domain causes "disproportionate and continuing harm to their reputations, dignity, and life prospects".

Giving them relief, the court directed search engines, legal database platforms and other intermediaries to de-index specified judgments, orders and related reportage from name-based search results.

Cockroach Janta Party now transitioning into a movement: Abhijeet Dipke

Amarjot Kaur
CHANDIGARH

The Cockroach Janta Party will continue to use every constitutional means available to make people's voices heard, including satire, and hopes to create a lasting "movement" out of the viral popularity of the online outfit, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke says.

In a video posted on the social media platforms Instagram and X on Sunday, the CJP founder said he would return to India on June 6 and stage a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Reiterating the CJP's demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Mr. Dipke said a petition hosted on the CJP website had received over eight lakh signatures. "Even though the CJP started as satire on May 16, in response to the Honourable Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's oral observations, the past 17 days have been a reminder of the growing frustrations against the unfair education system among India's youth. The youth has responded strongly to the NEET paper leak controversy and the technical issues in the new OSM system used for marking Class 12 CBSE Board results," he said.

The CJP's Internet popularity has surpassed that of any political party in the country, with its Instagram account clocking a total of 22.3 million followers.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said that the CJP is now transitioning from a satirical political outfit into a "movement". "CJP will remain a movement born out of satire and powered by the support of young people. We will continue to use every constitutional means available to make our voices heard, including satire. Our focus will remain on the most pressing issues facing the country today," he added.

New launch: CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke says he will return to India on June 6 and seek permission for a protest in Delhi. REUTERS

'Should not fade away'

On his homecoming, he said, "I am announcing my arrival since many people were asking me when I am going to return to India and take this movement forward. It was my responsibility towards all CJP supporters who have seen a rare hope in this movement and don't want it to fade away." He had earlier cited concerns about being "arrested and sent to Tihar (jail)" when he lands in India, and his worries have only grown with repeated attempts to allegedly suppress his voice by withholding his social media accounts. He said, "Yes, I can most probably be arrested and mentally I am prepared for all the consequences and attacks. I believe the Constitution of India will protect me."

CJP's official X account has been withheld since May 21, said Mr. Dipke. Listing out a timeline, he added: "We had lost access to CJP's Instagram handle for two days [on May 22 and 23]. The back-up account has been taken down since May 22. My personal Instagram [account] was locked for more than five days, between May 23 and May 28. CJP's website was down for three-to-four days from May 23 to May 27."

He also claimed that the CJP's volunteer registration form posted on May 29 was taken down by Instagram without any notice.

In view of these allegations and after observing the government's reaction to previous protests in the country, including the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act and farmers protests, the CJP founder said he would remain cautious. "I will be going to the Parliament Street police station to seek permission for the protest the day I land in Delhi and on the same day, after permission is granted, we will be holding a fully peaceful and democratic protest at Jantar Mantar. I am aware attempts will be made by the ruling party to defame the movement and even derail it. We will do everything we can within our constitutional rights to seek accountability from the government," he said.

Choice of protest site

About choosing Jantar Mantar as the protest's site, Mr. Dipke shared, "For decades Jantar Mantar has been the symbol of public movements. For us, it is synonymous with our fundamental right to free speech. Just like all other movements at Jantar Mantar that have shaped India for the better, this too will do the same. I won't be there alone, there will be thousands of youth who have been wronged by the system and who will lead this movement along with many other social activists and many democratic voices."

The proposed demonstration would mark the CJP's first major on-ground mobilisation since the satirical outfit emerged online in May, testing whether its viral popularity can translate into sustained public participation.

Trinamool MLAs are facing threats, says Mamata

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Monday said the party's MLAs were not allowed to participate in meetings and were being threatened with the help of the police.

This comes a day after only one-fourth of MLAs came to attend a meeting at her residence, and they had to eventually call off the meeting.

"Trinamool MLAs are being threatened with the help of police, local IC and SPs are making calls. They are sending police to their homes so that they cannot leave. They are directly asking our MLAs to break the party. The first call comes from police, the second phone from the Bharatiya Janata Party office," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Trinamool supremo said at least four of her MLAs faced such threats and were facing threats from the police to get slapped with fake cases under the Arms Act and other cases. She questioned if this was how democracy functioned.

Ms. Banerjee claimed that many of her party leaders were not speaking due to fear and were being pressured to break the party.

Trinamool expels 2 MLAs for 'anti-party activities'

Move came after they alleged their signatures were forged in a party letter submitted to Speaker; number of party MLAs in Assembly drops to 78; Abhishek fails to appear before CID probing case

Shrabana Chatterjee
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Monday expelled two of its MLAs – Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha – minutes after West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced that the duo had lodged a complaint alleging the forging of their signatures in a letter submitted by the party to the Speaker.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Adhikari said Mr. Ritabrata and Mr. Saha had submitted a written complaint to the Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly that their signature on a letter nominating Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly had been forged.

"I thank Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari for exposing the MLAs. If they had any allegations, they should have written to party chairperson Mamata Banerjee, not the Speaker," Trinamool MLA and party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, announcing their expulsion from the party.

Many party members, including himself, Mr. Ghosh said, may have had complaints about the Trinamool and may not be in agreement with everything the party did, but that did not give them the right to approach a political opponent with a complaint.

Big action: Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee addressing the media in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

"None of these people have won independently. They have won as representatives of the Trinamool, using Mamata Banerjee's face. After winning, just because we are not in government, they are doing this. If we were in power, these same people would have lobbied to become Ministers," Mr. Ghosh said. This is the first time the Trinamool is cracking down on dissident leaders after the Assembly election. The letter under scrutiny, addressed to the Speaker and signed by 70 Trinamool MLAs, was written by party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on May 20.

Official notices

The official notices sent to the two MLAs by the party stated that they had failed to attend meetings called by the party leadership repeatedly, they had made "anti-party statements", and hence their membership had been revoked with immediate effect.

Following the expulsion, the number of party MLAs in the Assembly has dropped to 78.

Mr. Saha told *The Hindu* on Monday that he welcomed his expulsion. "I have been expelled from an immoral party for doing the moral thing," he said.

Mr. Ritabrata said the expelled MLAs were right to file an official complaint with the Speaker of the House, a neutral entity who does not represent any party.

Party chairperson Mamata Banerjee said that "some people who now have a problem with the party" must also remember they had become MLAs and MPs under the party's banner and symbol. "The moment we lost, you have turned and are coming to an understanding with other parties," she said.

It has been alleged that the names of 14 MLAs in the letter had been forged. The Criminal Investigation Department of the Bengal Police has questioned several MLAs in connection with the forgery. It summoned Mr. Abhishek on Monday in connection with the case, but he did not appear, citing illness.

Telangana CM to share views on governance and welfare delivery at The Hindu Huddle

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In a Huddle session on June 6 titled "By, for, and of the people: Good governance for Telangana," Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will be in conversation with N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group. The conversation will range over selected aspects of governance, development, and welfare delivery, and what the Congress government has been able to achieve since the party's victory in the 2023 Assembly elections.

In Telangana, the Congress party has been able to consolidate its political standing through a resounding triumph in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and impressive wins in subsequent local body polls.

The session will cover Telangana's Hyderabad-led economic development over the past decade. The Chief Minister will also be asked about implementation of his party's "Six Guarantees" electoral promise, and the specifics of welfare delivery such as free bus travel for women, the scheme of 200 units of free electricity per household, and the farm support and housing schemes.

The conversation will touch upon the State's industrial and investment policies, its fiscal crisis, the government's social justice initiatives that have been frustrated by courts, and political questions such as Union-State relations, State rights, Delimitation, the Chief Minister's relationship with the Governor, and with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Revanth Reddy will also be invited to present his intermediate and long-term vision for the all-round development of Telangana as one of India's most advanced States.

As in the previous Huddle edition, he will answer questions from the audience.

The event is presented by the Sami-Sabinsa Group as the Presenting Partner. The event is co-powered by the Government of Telangana and held in association with Khaja Bandanawaz University. It is further supported by Bank of Baroda, Larsen & Toubro, Apollo Hospitals, IIM Sirmaur, ICFAI Group, TAFE, Wizzmoni, Associate Partners; Casagrand, Realty Partner; Toyota, Luxury Car partner; Amity University Bengaluru, University Partner; Harrow International School Bengaluru, Education Partner; Meghalaya Tourism, State Partner; and NDTV 24x7, TV Partner.

Readers can register for the event by scanning the QR code. Limited seats available.

Students are paying the price of mistakes made by CBSE: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Intensifying its attack on the Narendra Modi government over the controversy surrounding the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, the Congress on Monday demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, saying he "epitomised arrogance and incompetence".

The Opposition party's criticism came after the CBSE acknowledged that there was a problem in the system, which made students' data public.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, accused the government of "financialising" education, and criticised the cost imposed on students seeking correction of alleged evaluation errors.

Sharing a video of his interaction with students, Mr. Gandhi said the burden of rectifying mistakes made by the system had been unfairly placed on them.

Congress leader Pawan Khera has asked why the CBSE did not pay heed to warnings about flaws in the digital evaluation system. ANI

"Beware of pickpockets – today, they are sitting right inside the CBSE," he said in a post on X. "The mistake belongs to the CBSE. The punishment falls on the student. The profit goes to the government."

Pointing to charges levied during re-evaluation – ₹100 per subject for scanned copies, ₹100 for re-totalling and ₹25 per question for re-evaluation – Mr. Gandhi said that students could spend up to ₹2,000 merely to ensure accurate marking.

"When education is turned from a service into a business, mistakes aren't corrected. They're multiplied. And our children are paying the steepest price for it - with their time, their self-confidence, and their future," Mr. Gandhi said.

In a separate X post, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that tender norms were altered to favour contractor COEMPT. Taking a swipe at the Education Minister, the Congress communications chief said, "Mantri Pradhan is the very epitome of arrogance and incompetence," and urged him to "follow his rajdharma and resign".

Addressing a press conference, Congress media and publicity department head Pawan Khera accused the BJP government of weakening India's educational institutions through "12 years of blatant misrule and relentless propaganda".

"While PM Modi continued on a personal PR spree with '*Pariksha Pe Charcha*' and 'Exam Warriors', crores of young students and their parents suffer daily," he alleged.

Posing a series of questions to the Prime Minister, Mr. Khera asked why the CBSE had "ignored" warnings from teachers and experts about 36 major flaws in the digital evaluation system.

Parliamentary panel bars doctors' body from attending meet on NEET

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The United Doctors' Front (UDF), which has been demanding the dissolution of the National Testing Agency (NTA), was not allowed to depose before the Parliamentary Standing Committee headed by Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, after protests from BJP MPs on Monday.

The Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, chaired by senior Congress leader Mr. Singh, had convened a meeting on issues concerning the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) and the functioning of the NTA. It also weighed in on the merits of "pen-and-paper testing" versus "computer-based tests". The agency has come under scrutiny following allegations of paper leaks and irregularities in the NEET-UG.

According to the official notice, representatives of

Digvijaya Singh

the UDF were listed among the witnesses for the meeting. However, when they were to be called, BJP Rajya Sabha member Bhim Singh objected. According to sources, he argued that the UDF's position on the issue was well known and that they were not neutral witnesses.

Writ petition

The UDF has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking to replace the NTA with an independent testing authority with direct parliamentary oversight, strong anti-leak mechanisms, and comprehensive audits. Other BJP members also supported Mr. Singh's position, contending that the issue must not be politicised.

Some of them also questioned the timing of these deliberations. Following this, the waiting UDF representatives were informed by Mr. Singh that they could not be part of the discussion.

Lakshya Mittal, chairperson of the UDF, told reporters that the body had submitted the names of its representatives and also a memorandum of demands a week in advance. "NTA should be dissolved and a new examination body should be created through an Act of Parliament. Such a body should be made accountable to Parliament," Dr. Mittal said.

Mr. Singh declined to share details of the meeting, citing rules that prohibit disclosure of discussions until the report is presented in Parliament. He reiterated the Congress's demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. "The PM is so miffed with the failures of Mr. Pradhan that he has taken up all the responsibilities himself," Mr. Singh said.

Congress allegations

On X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posted that the Solicitor-General had informed the Supreme Court that the Prime Minister was personally monitoring conduct of NEET.

Mr. Ramesh said it was difficult for any reasonable person to have faith in the "Pradhan Mantri and his 'system'."

"This 'system' botched up the investigation into the 2024 NEET-UG paper leak. This 'system' continues to deny that the NEET-UG 2026 paper was leaked... This 'system' has not only wrecked the administration of exams in higher education, but has done so in the CBSE as well," the Congress leader said.

INBRIEF

Lionel Messi statue in Kolkata removed over safety concerns

A 70-foot-high statue of Argentinian football legend Lionel Messi, installed by the previous Trinamool Congress government in 2025 in Kolkata's Lake Town area, was on Monday removed by the Public Works Department. The move by the new BJP government came after residents expressed concerns over safety as the statue was seen swaying in the wind. PWD officials have been regularly inspecting the venue, which is next to the Eastern Metropolitan bypass, over the past few days, and had tied ropes to prevent the statue from falling. The statue was found to be structurally unstable after a recent storm in the city, officials said.

Operation Mule Hunt exposes cyberfraud network; 638 held

In one of Gujarat's largest crackdowns on cybercrime-linked financial networks, the State police have uncovered cyberfraud worth ₹2,289 crore and taken action against 913 mule bank accounts during a special operation aimed at dismantling the financial infrastructure used by cybercriminals. The crackdown, titled Operation Mule Hunt 1.0, led to the registration of 565 FIRs and the arrest of 638 accused, according to details shared by the State on Monday. The drive was conducted by the Gujarat Police and the Cyber Centre of Excellence under the supervision of Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi as part of the government's broader effort to combat cybercrime, officials said.

Legendary singer Suman Kalyanpur passes away at 89

Suman Kalyanpur, 89, who touched the deepest corners of our hearts with her silken voice, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday night after a brief illness. In Hindi cinema's golden age, Kalyanpur viewed singing not as a vehicle for fame but as a pure, spiritual extension of her early love for the fine arts. Born in 1937 in Dhaka, she relocated to Bombay with her family in 1943. Over a three-decade career, the Padma Bhushan awardee sang in around 100 films across languages. Her masterpieces include *Na Tum Hamein Jano* (*Baat Ek Raat Ki*), *Aaj Kal Tere Mere Pyar Ke Charche* (*Brahmachari*), and *Na Na Karte Pyar Tumhin Se* (*Jab Jab Phool Khile*).

West Bengal Cabinet expands to 41 with 35 new Ministers

Thirty-five BJP MLAs were sworn in as Ministers in the West Bengal government on Monday at an event organised at Lok Bhawan, Kolkata. Governor R. N. Ravi administered oaths to 13 Cabinet Ministers, three Ministers of State (independent charge) and 19 other Ministers of State. With six Ministers, including the Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari taking the oath on May 9, the total number of Ministers has increased to 41. Article 164(1A) of the Constitution caps a State's Council of Ministers at 15% of Assembly strength; with 294 seats, West Bengal can have a maximum of 44 Ministers.

SC denies plea to hold NEET re-test in CBT format

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to direct the National Testing Agency to conduct the NEET-UG, 2026 re-test in a computer-based test (CBT) format instead of the existing pen-and-paper mode, observing that altering the mode of examination at this stage would pose practical difficulties.

The NEET-UG. 2026, originally held on May 3, was cancelled on May 12 following allegations of a paper leak. Consequently, the Central Bureau of Investigation launched a probe, and a fresh examination has been scheduled for June 21.

A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar expressed disinclination to grant the relief sought by the petitioner and deferred consideration of the plea until July.

During the hearing, counsel for the petitioner confined his submissions to the plea that the re-test be conducted in CBT mode, contending that it would minimise the possibility of another paper leak. The court pointed to the logistical constraints confronting the examination authorities.

56,880 qualify in JEE Advanced; Shubham of Delhi zone first

A total of 1,79,694 candidates appeared for both papers on May 17; Delhi zone candidates secured top ranks, Madras zone had most qualifiers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A total of 56,880 candidates qualified for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), according to the results of the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced), 2026, declared by the IIT-Roorkee on Monday.

The qualified candidates comprise 46,773 males and 10,107 females. Shubham Kumar from the IIT-Delhi zone clinched the all-India rank 1 (AIR 1) on the common rank list, scoring 330 out of 360 marks.

Among female candidates, Arohi Deshpande, also from the IIT-Delhi zone, emerged as the national topper. She secured the 77th rank with a score of 280 out of 360 marks.

Out of 1,87,389 registered aspirants, a total of 1,79,694 candidates appeared for both Paper 1 and 2, conducted on May 17.

While the top ranks went to candidates from the Delhi zone, the Madras zone registered the most number of successful candidates overall, with 14,294 qualifiers. The zone dominated the top micro-brackets, producing 35 of the country's top 100 rankers and 174 of the top 500.

Making the grade: The qualified candidates in the JEE Advanced 2026 include 46,773 males and 10,107 females. ANI

Professor Kamal Kishore Pant, Director of IIT-Roorkee and Joint Admission Board Chairperson, clarified that qualified candidates are eligible to register for counselling regardless of their Class 12 percentage, though final admission will remain subject to the prescribed eligibility criteria. This includes passing Class 12 with physics and mathematics as main subjects. General category students must score at least 75% marks or be in the top 20 percentile of their Board.

The Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) 2026 counselling process is scheduled to begin on June 2.

Qualified candidates aiming for Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) programmes at the IITs must register for the Architecture Aptitude Test 2026 on June 1 and 2.

Govt. backtracking on Ladakh draft, alleges Wangchuk

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Cherring Dorjay Lakrook was denied permission to take a picture of the draft, Wangchuk said

Members of the Ladakh civil society on Monday said the Centre was backtracking from its promise made during the meeting on May 22 on "granting supreme powers to elected representatives over bureaucracy in the Union Territory". They further alleged that the draft shared by the Union Home Ministry recently was "watered down".

"We appeal to the Centre to not allow the atmosphere of positivity to turn negative. There is scope for suspicion that the Centre is backtracking from its agreed position," said climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who attended the sub-committee meeting in New Delhi on May 22.

Mr. Wangchuk was joined by leaders of the Ladakh Buddhist Association, including its president Cherring Dorjay Lakrook, and leaders of the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).

"The May 22 meeting of the sub-committee with the Centre was historic. It was hailed by all. Everyone expressed happiness. It suggested a tailored democratic set-up for Ladakh. It was agreed that the elected representatives of the Legislative Assembly will have executive, financial and legal powers. It was agreed that the elected representatives will have supreme powers over bureaucracy, including the Chief Secretary. However, the draft shared by the Ladakh administration does not reflect what was agreed upon," said Mr. Wangchuk.

Mr. Wangchuk released the recorded minutes of the meeting with the Ministry.

"A few days ago, Mr. Cherring was shown the draft for his signature. However, it was not the same that was deliberated upon on May 22 in New Delhi. In fact, Mr. Cherring was denied permission to take a picture of the draft. It's strange that no official means, such as email, letter etc., was used to forward the final draft to us. These things are sowing seeds of suspicions," said Mr. Wangchuk.

Despite promises, CBSE's re-evaluation portal inactive even on Monday evening

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The CBSE's re-evaluation portal, set for a much-awaited launch on June 1, remained inaccessible to users till late evening on Monday.

On Monday afternoon, the CBSE had stated that the "verification and re-evaluation portal will go live soon" but was inactive till the time of this report. Officials said that the portal would most likely go live before midnight.

The delays follow severe criticism over the board's expanded On-Screen Marking (OSM) system used for evaluating the Class 12 examinations this year.

The application portal was originally slated to open on May 29. The CBSE later postponed the launch to June 1 to build a "transparent and glitch-free process".

Only those who had registered for and received scanned digital answer books can apply.

When students tried to access scanned copies of their evaluated answer sheets earlier in May, they encountered broken pages, faulty payment gateways, and blurred or incomplete digital scripts.

To salvage the system, the Ministry of Education brought in top engineering experts from IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras to audit vulnerabilities and fortify the infrastructure.

Only students who have already applied for and received their scanned digital answer books can apply for re-evaluation.

The CBSE has stated that when applying for re-evaluation the student must specify exact question numbers and explain online how an answer matches the official marking scheme but was incorrectly evaluated.

Over 4 lakh students have applied to check their answer sheets.

Following intervention by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the CBSE has promised that all re-evaluation fees will be fully refunded if a student's marks increase after the review.

Ethical use of AI in cultural space to be a key focus area at BRICS culture meetings

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Varanasi is set to host 2nd Culture Working Group Meeting after the 1st CWG, which was held virtually

The ethical use of artificial intelligence in the cultural space will be one of the focus areas for discussion during the BRICS culture working group meetings beginning from Thursday, the Union Culture Ministry said on Monday.

Creative economy, culture climate and sustainable development and cultural and creative industries are some of the other areas of deliberation, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Agrawal said at a press conference in which he unveiled the comprehensive road map and calendar for the 2026 BRICS Culture Track.

He said that there was a line-up of major cultural events around the BRICS summit scheduled across the country over the coming months. Varanasi is set to host second Culture Working Group Meeting, following the successful completion of the 1st Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting held virtually on April 29-30.

"As one of the world's oldest living cities, Varanasi will serve as the backdrop for five critical thematic panel discussions aimed at shaping the final outcome document," Mr. Agrawal said.

The five themes are: creative economy and people-to-people cooperation, copyright and ethical AI in the creative economy, cultural heritage protection and return of cultural property, collaborative approaches to safeguarding shared heritage and culture as a driver of sustainable development.

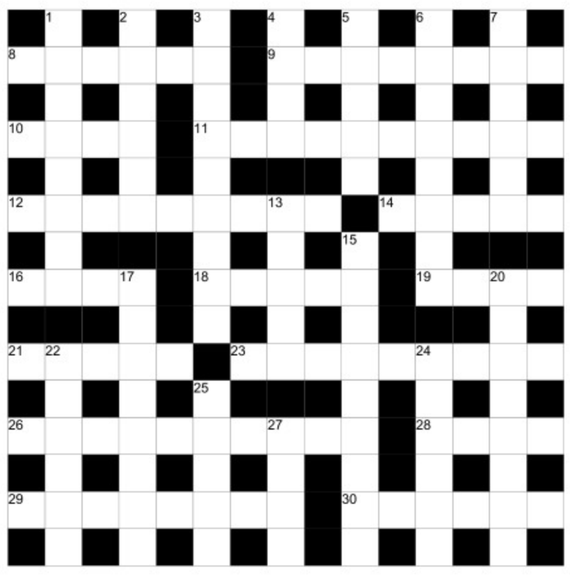
The culture track will feature a total of four official meetings alongside major public festivals, bringing together the 11 member nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Indonesia) along with 10 newly joined partner countries. After Varanasi, the third BRICS CWG meeting would be held in Bhopal followed by the BRICS Culture Festival and the BRICS Culture Minister's meeting. A BRICS theatre festival would be held in Delhi in October.

TH CROSSWORD + 14809

(set by Crossant)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

8. Better place found in search occasionally backfires (6)
9. Public gallery bombing kills girl, leader of youth to blame (8)
10. What Vaibhav Sooryvanshi does is crazy (4)
11. Letting in contaminated crude? No, no (10)
12. That person gets a place at outskirts of Alps mountain range (9)
14. Lecherous man, drunk, strays endlessly (5)
16. Finally confirming the rumour from source (4)
18. Reason criminal isn't brought in primarily (5)
19. Priest to work with European religious leader (4)
21. Inability to coordinate movements of a transport vehicle for auditor (5)
23. Hospital in America getting business extremely regularly (9)
26. About one cold heartless nurse melting, showing expression of sympathy (10)
28. Money anyway eventually becomes insignificant (4)
29. U.S. state beginning to lose goodwill, in trouble (8)
30. Badly injured, Jack goes off devastated (6)

DOWN

1. A date in Paris ending in love and bliss (8)
2. Bit of sleep that is savoured throughout afternoon primarily (6)
3. Get upset with travel restrictions limiting all new arrivals basically (2,7)
4. Cheat lying about computers (4)
5. Reprimand son coming after scheduled time (5)
6. The French woman seducing men accepts a tip from leading light (4,4)
7. Bold cover of Playboy amasses fortune (6)
13. Agree nearly everyone at home drinks? Good (5)
15. People from Osaka maybe adopting one Japanese form of Buddhism, right? (9)
17. Gab could be both a gift and a curse perhaps (5,3)
20. Was mother torn between father and elder daughter at first? (8)
22. Norse God with hatchet cut trunk (6)
24. Revolutionary Marxist state's leader is off grid (6)
25. Flat in quiet, narrow street by the sound of it (5)
27. Bill isn't passed when they have it (4)

SUDOKU

	4				7			8
			9	3	4		2	
3							1	
		5	3	8				2
		8				6		
1				5	2	3		
	1							3
	9		1	7	3			
5			4				6	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6899 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	2	6	9	7	1	8	5
7	6	9	1	8	5	2	4	3
5	8	1	3	4	2	9	6	7
6	2	7	8	5	9	4	3	1
8	9	4	7	3	1	6	5	2
1	3	5	2	6	4	8	7	9
2	5	8	4	1	3	7	9	6
9	7	6	5	2	8	3	1	4
4	1	3	9	7	6	5	2	8

FAITH

Nayanar's devotion

God tests the faithful and sports with them only to make them renowned among mankind. The life of Amarneethi Nayanar exemplifies this. One of the servitors of Siva, he was renowned for his charitable work. A prosperous weaver and cloth merchant from Pazhayarai, he utilised his income in the service of Siva's devotees, said P. Swaminathan.

Settling down with his family in Thirunalloor, he was at the forefront of conducting all festivals on a grand scale. He established a dharmashala, where devotees were free to stay and were well fed. Pleased with his work, Siva decided to exhibit his greatness to the world, but before that he also wanted to remove the speck of pride in the weaver. Accordingly, Siva arrived at Amarneethi's inn, in the guise of a sadhu. Welcoming the sadhu, Nayanar asked how he could be of service. The sadhu entrusted a loin cloth asking him to return it as soon as he returned from bathing. Nayanar promised to do so, but his subconscious noted that it was a well-worn cloth. The sadhu (Siva) immediately made the loin cloth disappear. When he returned, Nayanar could not find the loin cloth left in his custody and offered to replace it with a newer one. The sadhu was enraged. Finally, it was agreed that a *tulabaram* (offerings made on a balance as recompense) would be held. Nayanar placed a new loin cloth, but the scale did not balance. After many attempts, the servitor plied the scale with gold, and other offerings, to no avail. Realising that he was in the presence of Lord, he, along with his family members sat on the scale and sought His pardon. A pleased Siva blessed him with beatific vision, along with Parvati.

INBRIEF

Suzlon Energy shares tank 6% after SEBI slaps penalty

Suzlon Energy Ltd shares on Monday tanked almost 6% to ₹53.89 on the BSE as investors dumped the company's shares days after market regulator the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a fine of ₹28.6 crore on the company and its top brass for 'inflating the firm's net worth through circular transactions and misleading investors. As per SEBI's Friday's order, Suzlon used misreported accounts to raise equity share capital worth ₹1,800 crore from Dilip Shanghvi Family & Associates and availed loan restructuring from banks worth ₹393 crore.

NMDC's May iron ore output increases 20%, sales decline

State-owned miner NMDC's iron ore production in May rose almost 20% year on year to 5.31 million tonne, while sales declined. The year earlier output was 4.43 MT. Sales last month stood at 4.04 MT (4.34 MT). For April, NMDC had reported a 16% increase in production to 4.64 MT (4 MT) and a marginal increase in sales to 3.68 MT (3.63 MT). The company, India's largest iron ore producer, had in FY26 a record 53.15 MT output of the key raw material for steel, which was 21% more than 44.07 MT in the previous fiscal. Sales rose 13% to 50.23 MT (44.40 MT).

Zee to broadcast FIFA World Cup for Indian football fans

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) announced an eight-year partnership with world soccer body FIFA to broadcast all matches, including World Cup 2026, in the Indian market. As part of a deal with Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), ZEEL will bring 39 FIFA global football events, including FIFA World Cup 2026, that kicks off on June 11. Indian football fans will be able to watch live on ZEEL's sports network and its streaming platform ZEE5. "The Indian market is of strategic importance for FIFA," said FIFA CBO Romy Gai. PTI

Commercial LPG price up; ATF cheaper for international flights

Oil Marketing Companies' under-recoveries on domestic LPG presently stood at about ₹650 per cylinder, says Sujata Sharma of Union Petroleum Ministry, adding under-recoveries were at ₹30/litre on ATF for domestic scheduled carriers

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Indicative of the continuing stress on the supply of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) due to the West Asia crisis, prices of 19-kg commercial LPG has been raised by ₹42 per cylinder effective June 1.

Also, while the price of the 5 kg free trade LPG (FTL) - mostly used by migrant workers - was hiked by ₹11 while the price of 14.2 kg LPG cylinder - for domestic consumers - was kept unaltered.

Meanwhile, in some relief for airlines, the price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for international flights and carriers were cut by about $400/kilo litre while ATF prices for domestic scheduled carriers were kept unchanged.

Under-recoveries

Speaking to reporters, Sujata Sharma, Joint-Secretary, Union Petroleum Ministry, said State-run oil-marketing companies (OMCs) were incurring under-recoveries of ₹30/litre on ATF for domestic scheduled carriers.

In response to a question from *The Hindu*, Ms. Sharma informed OMCs under-recoveries on domestic LPG presently stood at about ₹650 per cylinder.

Commercial LPG up

The 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi is now priced at ₹3,113.5/cylinder and 5-kg FTL at ₹821.5.

The 14.2 kg LPG cylinder meant for domestic consumers, however, continues to be sold at ₹913/cylinder in Delhi. Prices of commercial LPG have been hiked for the fourth time since the conflict in West Asia commenced on February 28 this year.

They were last hiked by ₹993/cylinder on May 1. This was preceded by ₹195.5/cylinder hike effected April 1. The first installment of the hikes, ₹115 per cylinder, was on March 7.

A similar paradigm holds for the 5-kg free trade LPG. Price of the small cylinder has experienced its third hike since the conflict began.

It was last hiked by a steeper ₹261/cylinder May 1 preceded by ₹51 hike on April 1.

Increased prices of 5kg FTL LPG also translate to increased pressure, particularly on migrant labourers in urban and semi-urban areas who do not have local address proof and thus rely on these cylinders that do not mandate any such requirement.

As per government data, public-sector OMCs have sold more than 2.72 lakh 5-kg FTL cylinders since April 3 this year.

ATF prices

Prices of jet fuel for domestic scheduled flights have been kept unchanged for the second consecutive month in June whilst international carriers have seen a course reversal with the approximately $400/kilolitre fall in price.

On May 1, the price of ATF for international airlines was pushed up by $76.55/kilolitre from $1,435/kilolitre.

ATF price for domestic carriers last rose on April 1 this year by more than 9%.

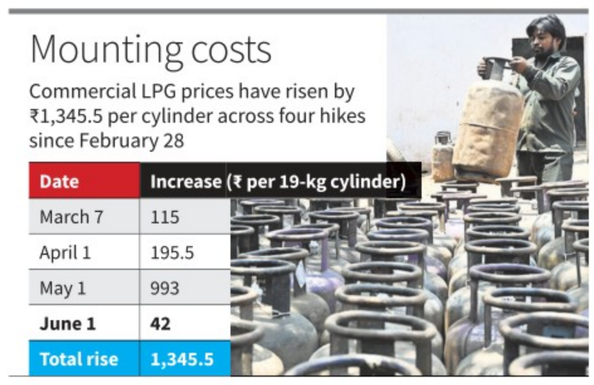
Its current price is unchanged at about ₹1.04 lakh/kilolitre in Delhi.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ravi Gosain, president of the Indian Association of Travel Operators (IATO) welcomed the reduction though taking note of the domestic ATF prices being unaltered.

Complex pricing

He sought to highlight complexities in pricing mechanisms centred on taxation structures and market dynamics.

"While global crude trends provide some relief, the benefits may not immediately translate into lower costs for domestic carriers," he stated, adding, "Going forward, a more balanced and response pricing mechanism could help strengthen the sector's competitiveness, improve airline margins, and ultimately create room for better connectivity and consumer benefits."


Mounting costs
Commercial LPG prices have risen by ₹1,345.5 per cylinder across four hikes since February 28
Date | Increase (₹ per 19-kg cylinder)
March 7 | 115
April 1 | 195.5
May 1 | 993
June 1 | 42
Total rise | 1,345.5

Amid El Nino threat, govt. cuts urea, DAP requirements

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid expectations of lowered monsoon with looming threats about an El Nino, the Department of Agriculture and Family Welfare cut back on requirement for both urea and diammonium phosphate (DAP), Aparna Sharma, Additional Secretary at the Department of Fertilizers told reporters.

Having consulted states, she informed the Department cut down on requirement of urea for the Kharif season this year from 194.04 lakh metric tonne (LMT) to 190.32 LMT.

Further, they have curtailed DAP requirement to 56.23 LMT from 59.17 LMT.

"Due to El Nino effect, Indian Meteorological Department forecast monsoons are expected to be lower, therefore, we requested the Department of Agriculture and Family Welfare for re-assessment of fertilizer for Kharif season," she said.

Ms. Sharma said about 132.43 LMT fertilizers - inclusive of Urea, DAP, NPKs, SSP and MOP - have been added to overall stock.

Maruti, Tata lead PV wholesales in May

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Auto wholesales gained momentum with many OEMs reporting record sales in May. The Passenger Vehicles (PV) industry is estimated to have sold 4.4 lakh units in May.

PV market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. continued to surpass all past wholesales record in May indicating strong demand for automobiles. It reported total wholesales of 2,42,688 units, up 35% year-on-year (YoY).

Local wholesales were 1,93,535 units, up 40% while exports surged 34% to 41,914 units.

Company top executives said the demand for CNG vehicles have gone up by 40% following the hike in petrol prices while bookings for electric vehicles have doubled.

"We have seen improvement in every segment including small cars," said Partho Banerjee, senior executive officer, marketing & sales, Maruti Suzuki.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. in May reported domestic wholesales of 59,090 units, up 42% YoY.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported PV sales of 58,021 units, up 11% YoY.

Hyundai Motor India Ltd total sales grew 4.1% YoY to 61,137 units.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd. sold 33,128 units, up 7% YoY.

Kia Motor India sold 27,586 units, up 23.6% YoY.

'No supply pressure on edible oil seen'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government does not foresee any pressure on edible oil now or in the coming days, C. Shikha, Joint Secretary at the Department of Food and Public Distribution told reporters at the bi-weekly inter-ministerial briefing on West Asia situation.

"We are closely monitoring and do not foresee any pressure now or in the days to come," she said, adding, "This is because in exporting countries, the season is going to peak between June and September."

GST mop-up grows 3.2% in May to ₹1.94 lakh cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Gross GST collections rose 3.2% to over ₹1.94 lakh crore in May on higher supplies of goods and services, as well as collection from imports, government data showed on Monday.

Gross Central GST (CGST) collection from domestic transactions during the reported month stood at ₹37,397 crore while State GST (SGST) stood at ₹45,143 crore and Integrated GST (IGST) at ₹51,990 crore.

Manufacturing grows to 3-month high: PMI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector activity growth accelerated to a three-month high in May, driven by demand strength, infrastructure projects and new business gains, even amid inflationary pressures, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) posted 55.0 in May, above the April reading of 54.7, indicating the strongest improvement in the sector's health in three months.

HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a gauge of overall conditions derived from measures of new orders, output, employment, supplier delivery times and stocks of purchases.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

Goods makers reported the fastest expansions in new orders and output since February and cited factors like demand strength as the main reason behind the upturn.

'Resolution of steel, CBAM sticking points in India-U.K. trade pact'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India and the U.K. will discuss Britain's steel safeguard measure and carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) this week as these issues have become a sticking point in the implementation of the bilateral free trade pact, which was signed on July 24, 2025, sources said.

These issues will figure prominently during the India visit of U.K. Minister of State for Trade Policy Chris Bryant on June 2.

He will hold a bilateral meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

These issues have become a kind of sticking point in the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Both these issues will be discussed during the visit of the U.K. Minister, they said, indicating that until these issues are resolved, the roll-out of the pact would be difficult.

From July 1, 2026, the U.K. will limit tariff-free steel imports, reducing overall quota volumes by 60% compared to the steel safeguard measure. Any imports above these levels will then face a 50% tariff.

This will apply to imports of steel products that can also be made in the U.K. Earlier, U.K. had safeguard steps that imposed import quotas. The new steps reduce that quota.

'Fiscal deficit goal reached'

The Union government has achieved its fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of the GDP for the year 2025-26, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Monday. PTI

'Broader impact of war to be felt strongly over next few quarters'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Vineet Agarwal

The economic impact of the West Asia conflict that began in late February with the assassination of Iran's Supreme leader by American and Israeli forces, has been significant on India and some of the effects would unfold over the next few quarters, according to a top transportation and logistics entrepreneur.

"The broader impact of the crisis is likely to be felt more strongly over the next few quarters rather than immediately," said Vineet Agarwal, MD, Transport Corporation of India Ltd. (TCI), one of the leading multi modal transportation and logistics companies in an interview.

"We could see some shift from road to rail as road freight rates have started to increase. Such modal shifts typically happen during periods of rising fuel costs. Fortunately, we are well positioned because we also operate a strong rail logistics and coastal shipping business," he said.

He said some demand erosion could be visible in the coming quarters and prices are set to climb in line with the fuel price rise.

"We have seen disruptions in several industries that rely heavily on gas consumption. In some sectors, gas availability has reduced significantly, while in others, gas prices have risen sharply. This directly affects production costs.

"Several MSMEs and factories faced disruptions on inadequate gas availability in some regions, which hit production levels and consequently, cargo volumes," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

No: SHAR: CMG CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-01(A)/26-27 Dt: 22.05.2026

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for following works;

Name of Work	Tender No	Estimate Cost
Term Contract for CIVIL minor and maintenance works at SLP, SRC, ASLV, Telemetry areas, Coastal road & Security Outposts at BOP, JOB, TOP & KOP area, SDSC SHAR (for the year 2026-27).	T/C-26-003	₹ 100.00 Lakhs

Tender documents can be downloaded up to **09.06.2026**, **14:30** hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

Office of Chief Engineer (Rural), Public Health Engineering Department, Jal Bhawan, 2-Civil Lines Jaipur, Rajasthan

S.No. 3639-678 Dated: 25/5/26

BID NOTICE 2026-27/03 Dated 25.05.2026

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, PHED invites bids online in electronic format on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, from manufacturers for Procurement of ISI Marked CID Joints Size-80-600mm class 10, 15 & 20 as per IS 8794 (Amended/ revised upto date) For details please visit website **www.sppp.rajastan.gov.in** & **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.

NIB Code:- PHE2627A0694
UBN Code:- CID JOINTS- 2627GLRC01446

(ASHOK KUMAR CHORDIA)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT CIRCLE
PHED RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR

DIPR/C/9395/2026

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description	Due date
262713 001324	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 5000 GAR of Australian origin.	18.06.2026
262723 000677	Supply of Material, Fabrication at Supplier Works, Transportation, erection and testing of Stainless Steel (SS 316L) Tanks and Carbon Steel Tank for Speciality Chemical Storage in TNPL Unit-II.	12.06.2026
262723 000783	Procurement of Fuel oil for Unit-II.	09.06.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1982/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites proposals for the following online tender from eligible consultants:

1. Tender ID: 2026_KERA_853230_1

Consulting services: Technical Support Agency for selection and handholding of 250 Agri & Food SMEs in the state of Kerala

Last date of submission of Proposal is 30th June, 2026, 4:00 PM

The tender Document can be downloaded from e-tender Kerala portal starting from 1st June, 2026, 10:00 AM.

Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
(An Autonomous Institute of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in Email: procurementservices.kssci@gmail.com

Gem Bid Notice Date :01.06.2026

It is hereby informed that a bids No. is as follow: -

Sr. No.	Name of Service	Bid No. & Date	Pre-bid Meeting Date & Time
1	Laundry Service - Healthcare purpose	GEM/2026/B/ 7601741 Dated 01.06.2026	04.06.2026 15:00 PM

The Bid uploaded on GeM Portal for Procurement of **Laundry Services** at KSSSCI. All interested service providers/bidders are required to submit their bids on GeM Portal in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GeM bid documents. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

The Tender documents are available on the website of the Institute **www.cancerinstitute.edu.in**

Advt no. KSSSCI/Tender -04/2026-27 DIRECTOR

MOIL LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
Registered & Corporate Office:
MOIL Bhavan, 1-A, Katol Road, Nagpur - 440013, Maharashtra
CIN: L99999MH1962GOI012398

GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE

Tenders in three parts are invited from bonafide and experienced contractors for the following works.

Sr. No.	Description & Place of Work	Completion Period	EMD Amount (INR in Crore)	Estimated Cost (Approx.) (INR in Crores)
1	Design, Construction, Furnishing & Equipping of Third Vertical Shaft on TURNKEY BASIS at **Chikla Mine** of MOIL Ltd. Tumsar Tehsil, Bhandara District, Maharashtra, India. Pin Code - 441907 Tender No: MOIL/MOIL LIMITED/ Project/2/2026-27/ET/22	48 Months	0.50	208.17 plus GST as applicable

For details of Global Tender Document and schedule of e-tender, visit e-tender website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn/** (for e-bid) & MOIL website **https://moil.nic.in** an Indian Government's Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal **(https://eprocure.gov.in)**. **Corrigendum**, if any, shall be uploaded on the above-mentioned websites and shall not be published in the Newspapers.

Executive Director (P&D), MOIL Limited

◆ हर एक काम देश के नाम ◆
◆ MOIL – Adding Strength to Steel ◆

KINSHASA

Ebola cases in Congo rise to 282 confirmed infections, officials say

AFP

At least 282 confirmed cases of Ebola have been reported in Congo's ongoing outbreak, authorities said on Sunday evening. The eastern Ituri province has recorded 264 of the cases. Congo has reported over 1,000 suspected cases with the Bundibugyo virus, the current species of Ebola, which has no approved treatment or vaccine. AP

KYIV

Russian strikes across Ukraine leave one dead, dozens wounded

REUTERS

Russian drones killed one person and wounded two dozen others across Ukraine, local authorities said on Monday, as Kyiv and Moscow step up long-range strikes with peace talks stalling. One person was killed in Kherson while injuries were reported in Odesa, Chernigiv, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia, officials said. AFP

LONDON

U.K. govt. releases second tranche of files on ex-U.S. envoy Mandelson

AFP

The U.K. government published a second batch of files relating to the appointment of Peter Mandelson as U.S. envoy. Prime Minister Keir Starmer sacked Mr. Mandelson last year, but his decision to hand the post to a man with known ties to the late U.S. sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, has prompted calls for the PM to resign. REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia becomes latest nation to enforce social media ban for teens

GETTY IMAGES

Malaysia began enforcing rules barring millions of children younger than 16 from having social media accounts, joining a growing global effort to tighten safety protections. Not all families approved, and critics raised concerns about data protection and surveillance. Australia, Brazil and Indonesia have initiated similar regulations. AP

Iran halts U.S. talks over Israel's Lebanon war

'Ceasefire between Iran and the U.S. is unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon; its violation on one front is a violation of truce on all fronts,' says Minister Araghchi; 'there will be no Israeli troops going to Beirut, and any troops on their way, have been turned back', says Trump

Stanly Johny

Iran has suspended exchanges with the U.S. over a preliminary agreement aimed at ending the war, citing Israel's escalating military strikes in Lebanon, the Tasnim news agency reported on Monday.

Hours after Iran's move, U.S. President Donald Trump said he had spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hezbollah, and that both sides agreed to stop attacking each other. He also said "talks are continuing with Tehran".

"Due to the continuation of the Zionist regime's [Israel] crimes in Lebanon and considering that Lebanon was one of the preconditions for the ceasefire and now this ceasefire has been violated on all fronts including Lebanon, the Iranian negotiating team will stop "talks and exchange of texts through mediation", the report stated.

Onslaught continues: Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike on the outskirts of Tyre in southern Lebanon on Monday. AFP

Earlier in the day, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf had warned of consequences for Israel's strikes on Lebanon.

"The ceasefire between Iran and the U.S. is unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon. Its violation on one front is a violation of the ceasefire on all fronts. The U.S. and Israel are responsible for the consequences of any violation," Mr. Araghchi wrote in a social media post.

Mr. Ghalibaf, who is also the country's negotiator with the U.S., said the American blockade of Iran's ports and the Lebanon strikes were ceasefire violations. "The naval blockade and escalation of war crimes in Lebanon by the genocidal Zionist regime are clear evidence of U.S. non-compliance with the ceasefire," he wrote in a post.

As the peace process seemed on the verge of collapse, Mr. Trump appeared to step in to salvage the ceasefire. "I had a very productive call with Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, of Israel, and there will be no Troops going to Beirut, and any Troops that are on their way, have already been turned back," he wrote in a social media post. "Likewise, through highly placed Representatives, I had a very good call with Hezbollah, and they agreed that all shooting will stop – That Israel will not attack them, and they will not attack Israel."

In another post, Mr. Trump said talks with Iran are "continuing, at a rapid pace", without offering further details.

Beirut raid

Earlier on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu said he has ordered the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to strike Beirut's Dahiyeh neighbourhood, a Hezbollah stronghold, "in response to the repeated and ongoing violations of the ceasefire in Lebanon". Mr. Trump, who announced a ceasefire on April 17, had said then that Israel was "prevented" from striking Lebanon. But the IDF continued its military operations and captured more territory in southern Lebanon.

On Sunday, U.S. Central Command said it struck military targets in southern Iran over the weekend after Iran shot down an American drone. Hours later, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said they attacked a U.S. military base in the region.

CENTCOM later claimed it intercepted "two Iranian ballistic missiles targeting American forces based in Kuwait.

France seized tanker linked to Russia with U.K. support: Macron

Associated Press
PARIS

The French Navy, with support from the U.K., has intercepted an oil tanker under international sanctions that was travelling from Russia, the most recent effort by nations that support Ukraine to target Russian oil exports helping to finance President Vladimir Putin's war.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced on Monday the interception in a post on X, saying the *Tagor* was boarded on Sunday in the Atlantic. "It is unacceptable that boats skirt international sanctions, and finance the war that Russia has been waging against Ukraine," he wrote.

French soldiers intercept the oil tanker on the Atlantic Sea. AP

Russia is believed to be using a 'shadow' fleet of hundreds of ships to evade international sanctions imposed over the war.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that Russia "considers such actions illegal."

"They border on piracy," he said.

Pro-Trump nominee leads in Colombia's presidential election

Associated Press
BOGOTA

Abelardo de la Espriella, a supporter of U.S. President Donald Trump, pulled ahead in Colombia's race for the presidency in the first round of elections, capitalising on a growing appetite for heavy-handed crackdowns on criminal groups across Latin America.

But the second-place finisher, progressive senator Iván Cepeda, and his ally President Gustavo Petro questioned the results of the election on Sunday night without providing evidence.

Mr. De la Espriella rapidly gained traction in the lead up to Sunday's election, winning nearly 44% of the vote, and surpassing Mr. Cepeda, who had consistently led polling throughout the campaign and won less than 41% of the vote. The two are slated to continue on to a runoff election on June 21, where Mr. De la Espriella is expected to scoop up additional votes from Colombians who supported other conservative candidates in the first round.

U.K. blocks visit by left-wing U.S. commentators

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Two American left-wing political commentators have been barred from entering the U.K. this week to attend speaking engagements. Cenk Uygur, a Turkish American who founded Justice Democrats, a progressive political funding group, and Young Turks, a long-running online show, said he was banned from two events in the U.K. this week.

Commentator and influencer Hasan Piker, who is Mr. Uygur's nephew, also said his visa has been "revoked". The 34-year-old had previously courted controversy for his views and remarks, including his comments on the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, his stance on Hamas and his use of derogatory language to describe Orthodox Jews. Mr. Piker had said in 2019 that the U.S. "deserved 9/11", later saying his comments were "inappropriate".

The U.K. Home Office confirmed to *The Hindu* that the travel permits for both individuals were cancelled because their presence would not be conducive to the public good.

"I've been banned from the U.K. I tried to get on a flight to attend SXSW London and give a speech at Oxford," Mr. Uygur said on X, adding that he was banned for criticising Israel. Mr. Uygur characterised the situation as oppression by Western governments of their own citizens on behalf of a third country. "It's an honour to have made Israel's enemies list. I'm very proud to have fought against their genocide," Mr. Uygur said.

Cenk Uygur

The decision to ban Mr. Uygur, *The Times* reported, was partly due to his rhetoric since Hamas's attacks in Israel on October 7, 2023, and related to fears that his visit would incite antisemitism in the U.K.

The travel ban, according to *The Times*, was also partly due to the commentator dismissing evidence in the case of grooming gangs in places such as Rotherham, where official probes identified more than 1,400 victims of sexual abuse.

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn called the travel ban an "absurd and cowardly decision" and an assault on the freedom to criticise Israel.

"Soon we will all become Israel," Mr. Piker said on X, as he referred to the government of Israel as genocidal and fascist. Mr. Piker posted a video of his 2025 address to the Oxford Union in which he had cautioned against linking a criticism of Israel's actions with Judaism and conflating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism.

"There's no reason to open our doors to those who seek to spread hate and division, especially to those who've supported a proscribed terror group," Labour MP David Taylor said.

The U.K. government had also banned 11 far-right figures from entering the country to take part in a demonstration organised by far-right figure Tommy Robinson in May this year.

NYC Mayor Mamdani skips 'Israel Day' parade

Associated Press
NEW YORK

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani did not attend an annual parade honouring Israel on Sunday, breaking with a decades-long political custom because of his support of Palestinian rights. The Israel Day parade has always been a must-attend event for Mayors, Governors and political leaders in the U.S.

The Mayor's absence has given fresh fuel to opponents who view his criticism of the Israeli government as antisemitic.

Sport

A tribute to Satwik and Chirag's resilience

SINGAPORE OPEN

Devyanshi Bihani

For nearly two years, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were forced to watch title opportunities slip away amid injuries, setbacks and frustrating near-misses. On Sunday, however, India's premier men's doubles pair ended the drought by becoming the first Indian duo to win the Singapore Open after defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in the Super 750 final.

The triumph marked Satwik and Chirag's first BWF World Tour title since 2024 and capped a week in which they also snapped the 34-match winning streak of World champions Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae in the semifinals.

Celebration time: Satwik and Chirag are delighted after ending their title drought. BADMINTON PHOTO

"I think the last week has been really, really good. It's been almost two years since we had won a title, so that makes it even more special. Especially in a tournament like the Singapore Open, where historically we haven't done as well," Chirag said during a virtual press conference on Monday.

The title run was built on resilience, with four of the Indians' five matches going the distance. They were tested again in the final as the Indonesians edged a tight opening game after drawing level at 18. But Satwik and Chirag stayed composed.

"We'll accept if we lose, but we'll give everything and lose. The attitude was pretty calm. Even when we were down, we wanted to fight back," Satwik said.

The second game saw the Indians increase the pace of the exchanges and force errors from their opponents to force the decider.

The Indians entered the third game determined to seize control. Satwik's attacking game began to click while Chirag dominated the forecourt, helping the pair build a crucial cushion. Although Fajar and Fikri briefly narrowed the gap, the Indians remained in command and closed out the contest in 72 minutes.

With a long-awaited title finally secured, Satwik and Chirag head into this week's Indonesia Open with renewed confidence and momentum ahead of the World Championships and Asian Games later this year.

WORLD CUP SQUADS

Iran names line-up

Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei named a 26-man squad for the World Cup on Monday.

Iran will base its squad in the Mexican border city of Tijuana during the finals.

The country will play all three of its group matches in the USA.

The squads:

IRAN: Goalkeepers: Alireza Beiranvand, Seyed Hossein Hosseini, Payam Niazmand; **Defenders:** Danial Eiri, Ehsan Hajsafi, Saleh Hardani, Hossein Kanaani, Shoja Khalilzadeh, Milad Mohammadi, Ali Nemati, Ramin Rezaeian; **Midfielders:** Rouzbeh Cheshmi, Saeid Ezatolahi, Mehdi Ghaedi, Saman Ghoddos, Mohammad Ghorbani, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Mohammad Mohebi, Amir Mohammad Razzaghinia, Mehdi Torabi, Aria Yousefi; **Forwards:** Ali Alipour, Dennis Dargahi, Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, Mehdi Taremi, and Shahriar Moghanlou.

MEXICO: Goalkeepers: Raul Rangel, Guillermo Ochoa, Carlos Acevedo; **Defenders:** Jesus Gallardo, Johan Vazquez, Israel Reyes, Cesar Montes, Jorge Sanchez, Mateo Chavez; **Midfielders:** Edson Alvarez, Erik Lira, Alvaro Fidalgo, Gilberto Mora, Brian Gutierrez, Luis Romo, Orbelin Pineda, Alexis Vega, Obed Vargas, Luis Chavez; **Forwards:** Roberto Alvarado, Santiago Gimenez, Raul Jimenez, Julian Quinones, Armando Gonzalez, Guillermo Martinez, and Cesar Huerta.

ECUADOR: Goalkeepers: Hernan Galindez, Moises Ramirez, Gonzalo Valle; **Defenders:** Pervis Estupinan, Piero Hincapie, Willian Pacho, Joel Ordonez, Felix Torres, Jackson Porozo, Angelo Preciado; **Midfielders:** Moises Caicedo, Alan Franco, Alan Minda, Pedro Vite, Jeremy Arevalo, Kendry Paez, Jordy Alcivar, Nilson Angulo, Anthony Valencia, John Yeboah, Denil Castillo, Gonzalo Plata; **Forwards:** Enner Valencia, Kevin Rodriguez, Jordy Caicedo, and Yaimar Medina.

AUSTRALIA: Goalkeepers: Patrick Beach, Paul Izzo, Mathew Ryan; **Defenders:** Aziz Behich, Jordan Bos, Cameron Burgess, Alessandro Circati, Milos Degenek, Jason Geria, Lucas Herrington, Jacob Italiano, Harry Souttar, Kai Trewin; **Midfielders:** Csameron Devlin, Ajdin Hrustic, Jackson Irvine, Connor Metcalfe, Aiden O'Neill, Paul Okon-Engstler; **Forwards:** Nestory Irankunda, Mathew Leckie, Awer Mabil, Mohamed Toure, Nishan Velupillay, Cristian Volpato, and Tete Yengi.

ALGERIA: Goalkeepers: Oussama Benbot, Melvin Mastil, Abdelatif Ramdane, Luca Zidane; **Defenders:** Achref Abada, Rayan Ait-Nouri, Zinedine Belaid, Rafik Belghali, Ramy Bensebaini, Samir Chergui, Jaouen Hadjam, Aissa Mandi, Mohamed Amine Tougai; **Midfielders:** Houssem Aouar, Nabil Bentaleb, Hicham Boudaoui, Fares Chaibi, Ibarhaim Maza, Yacine Titraoui, Ramiz Zerrouki; **Forwards:** Mohamed Amoura, Nadhir Benbouali, Adil Boulbina, Fares Ghedjemis, Amine Gouiri, Anis Hadj Moussa, and Riyad Mahrez.

CZECHIA: Goalkeepers: Lukas Hornicek, Matej Kovar, Jindrich Stanek; **Defenders:** Vladimir Coufal, David Doudera, Tomas Holes, Robin Hranac, Stepan Chaloupek, David Jurasek, Ladislav Krejci, Jaroslav Zeleny, David Zima; **Midfielders:** Lukas Cerv, Vladimir Darida, Lukas Provod, Michal Sadilek, Hugo Sochurek, Alexandr Sojka, Tomas Soucek, Pavel Sulc, Denis Visinsky; **Forwards:** Tomas Chory, Adam Hlozek, Mojmir Chytil, Jan Kuchta, and Patrik Schick.

SAUDI ARABIA: Goalkeepers: Nawaf Al Aqidi, Mohamed Al Owais, Ahmed Alkassar; **Defenders:** Saud Abdulhamid, Jehad Thakri, Abdulelah Al Amri, Hassan Tambakti, Ali Lajami, Hassan Kadesh, Moteb Al Harbi, Nawaf Boushal, Ali Majrashi, Mohammed Abu Alshamat; **Midfielders:** Ziyad Al Johani, Nasser Al Dawsari, Mohamed Kanno, Abdullah Al Khaibari, Alaa Al Hejji, Musab Al Juwayr, Sultan Mandash, Ayman Yahya, Khalid Al Ghannam; **Forwards:** Salem Al Dawsari, Abdullah Al Hamdan, Feras Al Brikan, and Saleh Al Shehri.

HUGE COMPLIMENT

Sooryavanshi dominated every top bowler, praises Patidar

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Asked to name the standout player of IPL 2026, RCB captain Rajat Patidar came up with a swift reply. "It's pretty clear — Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. He is so young... the way he has dominated this tournament. He didn't just play; he dominated every top bowler. The way he played his shots... he is amazing," Patidar said.

REFLECTION

Solanki feels 180 would have been a challenging total in the final

VIJAY SONEJI

GT fell 25 runs short of a good score in the IPL final against RCB, according to its Director of Cricket Vikram Solanki. "We probably made a slight miscalculation of what score was good enough on that pitch. I don't think it was a 200-plus pitch. If we had got somewhere around 180, it would have been a challenging total".

TRULY SPECIAL

Winning trophies has always been my biggest motivation: Krunal

PTI

RCB all-rounder Krunal Pandya shared his joy after winning his fifth IPL title. "Winning trophies has always been my biggest motivation in cricket because there's no feeling quite like lifting a championship. Individual performances and wins bring happiness, but winning a tournament is something truly special".

FIVE DEMERIT POINTS

RCB's David suspended for his first match of IPL 2027

K.R. DEEPAK

RCB's Tim David has been fined 50% of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of IPL's Code of Conduct during the final against GT. He has now accumulated five demerit points, which result in a one-game suspension. He will be suspended for RCB's first game of the next season or the first game of the franchise he represents in IPL 2027.

RCB gains from squad depth and clarity of roles

The franchise from the Garden City had several players coming up with match-winning performances; captain Patidar was composed while Kohli finished as the team's highest run-getter

IPL-19

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

RUN MACHINES

	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Sooryavanshi (RR)	16	776	103	237.30	1/5
Gill (GT)	16	732	104	163.02	1/6
Sai Sudharsan (GT)	17	722	100	157.98	1/8
Kohli (RCB)	16	675	105*	165.84	1/5
Klaasen (SRH)	15	624	69	160.00	0/6

SCALP HUNTERS

	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	4W
Rabada (GT)	17	29	3/25	9.68	0
Bhuvneshwar (RCB)	16	28	4/23	7.95	1
Archer (RR)	16	25	3/17	9.31	0
Rashid (GT)	17	21	4/33	9.07	1
Kamboj (CSK)	14	21	3/22	10.52	0

From going on a barren 17-year run, Royal Challengers Bengaluru is now looking to build a legacy as an IPL powerhouse.

Back-to-back titles have lifted RCB to fourth on the list of the most successful franchises, behind Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians, and Kolkata Knight Riders. The power dynamics of Indian T20 cricket are beginning to tilt toward the Garden City.

RCB's title defence this season was built on assembling the most balanced side in the competition – one with clarity in roles and depth across departments.

It was a campaign shaped by collective strength, with several players stepping forward with match-winning performances.

When Virat Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer fired at the top, RCB surged ahead. When they did not, Devdutt Padikkal, captain Rajat Patidar and Krunal Pandya found a way.

The fast bowlers – Josh Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jacob Duffy and youngster Rasikh Salam – repeatedly shut down chases or set up victories.

Another dimension

Krunal added another layer through a slingshot round-arm release and a surprise bouncer to keep the batters guessing. Seen as a whole, this side had answers for every situation.

If T20 leadership is often measured by constant intervention, Patidar offered something different. His captaincy was calm and understated.

He rarely looked hurried or flustered, even in tense moments. That composure filtered through the dressing room.

Then there was Kohli, who underlined once again why he remains the heartbeat of the franchise. For the second straight year, Kohli finished as RCB's highest run-scorer, and this time he did so at a significantly improved strike-rate (165.84 to 144.71).

His unbeaten 75 in the final against Gujarat Titans was an innings of authority and class.

As ever, his energy was infectious, all the while maintaining the highest standards. RCB may now be in the Patidar era, but it remains a team deeply shaped by Kohli's presence.

If Kohli represented the enduring value of the old guard, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi offered a glimpse into the future. The teenager emerged as the feel-good story of IPL 2026.

Sooryavanshi batted with a freedom and confidence that felt extraordinary even by IPL standards, forcing himself into the spotlight through sheer weight of performance. His game was marked not just by clean hitting, but by a sharp match awareness that belied his age.

RCB reaffirmed that titles are built on combined excellence rather than star power alone.

At the same time, Sooryavanshi's extraordinary exploits gave rise to a new hero of the masses. This season truly saw the cream rise to the top.

Array of game-changers: Bhuvneshwar, Rasikh and Krunal along with talisman Kohli played a big part in Royal Challengers' triumphant campaign. K.R. DEEPAK

Focus will turn to hat-trick of trophies after 'best birthday gift': Patidar

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

Rajat Patidar could not have wished for a better birthday. The RCB captain, who turned 33 on Monday, was all smiles as he sat beside the IPL trophy in the press conference room here.

"It is the best gift. Nothing can be better than this – to win the IPL for two successive years," Patidar said.

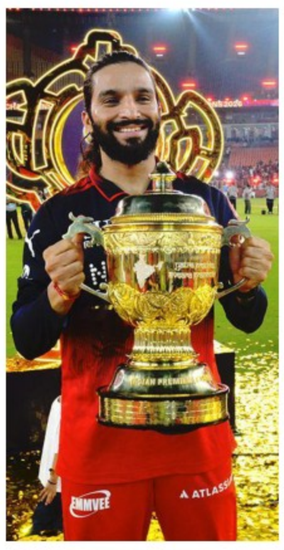
Patidar added that while the team will celebrate the triumph, the focus will shift to "how we can do three in a row".

The Madhya Pradesh player added that he has worked a great deal on his batting. The results were clear as Patidar looked more assertive and dominant at the crease.

"Before coming into the IPL, I spent a lot of time understanding my batting. I did proper net sessions. Sometimes, I was the only one at nets, and I needed bowlers. After that, I communicated a lot with DK *bhai* (RCB mentor and batting coach Dinesh Karthik) about how I could do more, trigger moments, technical changes, etc. Then I came here and executed that," Patidar said.

Patidar stated that he drew inspiration from Faf du Plessis, his first captain at RCB. "The way Faf du Plessis presented himself, the body language, the confidence – these are things I learnt," he said.

Speaking about the dominant show in the final, Patidar explained that dismissing the Gujarat Titans top-order – Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler – early proved to be crucial. "The GT batting line-up depends a lot on the top three batters. Our plan was to get the top three out in the PowerPlay. We did take two wickets. They went on the back foot from there," Patidar said.



Patidar... on cloud nine.
VIJAY SONEJI

From desperation to title triumphs: how Flower redefined RCB's legacy

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

Andy Flower's reign as Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach did not begin well. The team lost seven of its first eight matches in IPL 2024 before making a turnaround to enter the playoffs.

The tough phase gave Flower useful insight into what ails RCB. Over the course of the next two years, Flower and his staff have used these learnings to mould RCB into a formidable presence.

"The very tough first half of 2024 gave us real clarity about certain strategic things that we wanted to employ. It gave us the courage, almost through desperation, to take those measures. Then we had 2025, where we were walking into the unknown, as RCB had never won the title before. There was a lot of tension and uncertainty around getting into the playoffs," Flower said in a virtual media interaction on Monday.

Flower... the mastermind.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

This year's triumphant campaign, in contrast, was marked by quiet confidence, Flower stated. "This year, there was a deeper level of confidence. Going into the playoffs, this reflected in some of our performances," Flower said.

The 58-year-old was all praise for Virat Kohli, who has set a high bar for his teammates to follow. "Virat's hunger and drive are genuinely inspiring. He sets certain standards like intensity in the field. Anyone falling below is going to stand out like a sore thumb. Everyone has to raise their game to get anywhere near it," he said.

"The same goes for his batting mastery. He works hard at his game, but you can see that he loves batting. He loves hitting the ball. He loves the feeling of the ball meeting the middle of the bat. Again, those standards are easy for people in our training sessions to see," Flower said.

Stretched? Hardly! Auger-Aliassime made the quarterfinals with ease. REUTERS

Auger-Aliassime waltzes into the last eight

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Fourth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime despatched Alejandro Tabilo 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 on Monday to reach the French Open quarterfinals for the first time.

After playing nine sets and more than 11 hours as he won his first three matches in the first-week heatwave, Auger-Aliassime sped through his fourth match in two hours, eight minutes with the temperature in the mid-20s.

He will next play unseeded Italian Flavio Cobolli who clawed into the last eight, beating Zachary Svajda 6-2, 6-3, 6-7(3), 7-6 (5).

Former Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini, who has been plagued by injuries in recent years, booked his first Major quarterfinal since the 2022 US Open with a 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(6) victory over Jannik Sinner's conqueror Juan Manuel Cerundolo.

In the women's section, Diana Shnaider beat Madison Keys 6-3, 3-6, 6-0, while Austrian 28th seed Anastasia Potapova could not back up her win over defending champion Coco Gauff, twice failing to serve for the match in a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(7) defeat by Anna Kalinskaya.

The Russian will next face Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska after she continued her remarkable run by cruising past the last remaining French player, Diane Parry, 6-3, 6-2.

Tuesday's Picks

MEN
2-Zverev vs. **27**-Jodar
26-Mensik vs. **28**-Fonseca

WOMEN
7-Svitolina vs. **15**-Kostyuk
8-Andreeva vs. **18**-Cirstea

Balaji in last eight

N. Sriram Balaji and his Brazilian partner Marcelo Demoliner advanced to the men's doubles quarterfinals with a stunning upset 7-5, 6-4 win over sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz of Germany.

There was something to cheer for the crowd as PSG players Ousmane Dembele, Desire Doue, Warren Zaire-Emery and Bradley Barcola paraded their two Champions League trophies on court.

THE RESULTS

Men: Fourth round: Berrettini (Ita) bt Juan Cerundolo (Arg) 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(6).
4-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Tabilo (Chi) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.
10-Cobolli (Ita) bt Svajda (USA) 6-2, 6-3, 6-7(3), 7-6(5).
26-Mensik (Cze) bt 11-Rublev 6-3, 7-6(6), 4-6, 2-6, 6-3.
28-Fonseca (Bra) bt 15-Ruud (Nor) 7-5, 7-6(8), 5-7, 6-2.
Doubles: Third round: Balaji (Ind) & Demoliner (Bra) bt 6-Putz (Ger) & Kraweitz (Ger) 7-5, 6-4.
Women: Fourth round:
25-Shnaider bt 19-Keys (USA) 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.
22-Kalinskaya bt 28-Potapova (Aut) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(7).
Chwalinska (Pol) bt Parry (Fra) 6-3, 6-2.

THE HINDU GROUP

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DAY 1 | June 5, 2026 | Taj West End, Bengaluru

9:30 am to 10:00 am
Inaugural Ceremony

Welcome Address by
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle

Opening Remarks by
Dr Nirmala Lakshman
Chairperson, The Hindu Group

9:55 am to 10:15 am
Government of the People: Karnataka's tryst with equitable growth

Address by the Chief Guest,
D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

10:20 am to 10:50 am
Beyond the Valley: The role of Kashmir in great power politics

Omar Abdullah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir

In conversation with
Dr Narayan Lakshman
Opinion Editor, The Hindu, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle

11:10 am to 11:40 am
India-China Tango: Asian powers shaping the emerging world order

Xu Feihong
Chinese Ambassador to India

In conversation with
Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu

11:45 am to 12:30 pm
From the Aravallis to the Nicobar: At the edge of ecology

Jairam Ramesh
Former Union Minister and Hon'ble Member of Parliament (INC), Rajya Sabha

Dr Krithi K Karanth,
CEO, Centre for Wildlife Studies

In conversation with
Gargi Rawat
Consulting Editor, NDTV

12:35 pm to 1:20 pm
The Power of Words: Diplomacy at a time of conflict

Hervé Delphin
EU Ambassador to India

Nirupama Rao
Former Foreign Secretary and Former Indian Ambassador to the US

Philip Green
Australian High Commissioner to India

In conversation with
Suhasini Haidar
Diplomatic Affairs Editor, The Hindu

2:35 pm to 3:20 pm
The Architecture of Leadership: Designing blueprints for a volatile world

R Ganesan
Senior Vice President & Head - Corporate Centre, L&T

Neeti Sharma
CEO, TeamLease Digital

Praveen Someshwar
MD and CEO, USL & Member, Global Diageo Executive Committee

Shailendra Katyal
MD, Lenovo India P Ltd, and Site Leader, Lenovo Group

In conversation with
L V Navaneeth
CEO, The Hindu Group

3:25 pm to 4:10 pm
Skills for India: Building capability in the age of AI

Jayant Chaudhary
Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Government of India

In conversation with
Nistula Hebbar
Political Editor, The Hindu

4:15 pm to 5:00 pm
The Matrix Can Hear You: Chatbots and mental health

Dr Amit Malik
Psychiatrist and Founder, AMAHA

Dr Prabha S Chandra
Professor of Psychiatry and Director, NIMHANS

In conversation with
Amrita Tripathi
Author and Mental Health Advocate

5:05 pm to 5:50 pm
New Avatar for the Silver Screen: The global reach of OTT

Huma Qureshi
Actor

Kritika Kamra
Actor

In conversation with
Rohit Khilnani
Journalist and Talk Show Host

5:55 pm to 6:15 pm
Students' Huddle

*Schedule subject to change

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ICC Board suspends Cricket Canada

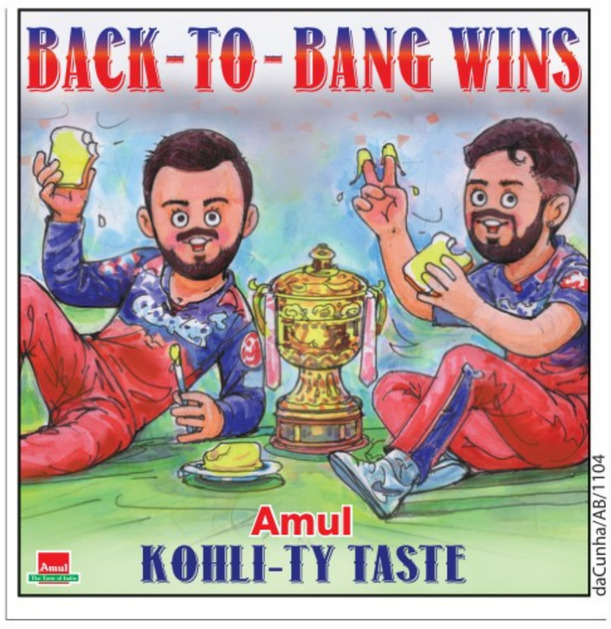
ANI
AHMEDABAD

The ICC Board on Monday suspended Cricket Canada with immediate effect due to serious breaches of its membership obligations after the conclusion of its Board meetings in Ahmedabad.

As per the release, the ICC Board was mindful of the importance of protecting the interests of Canadian players.

Accordingly, Canadian national representative teams will continue to be eligible to participate in ICC events during the period of suspension.

Cricket Canada will be permitted to access ICC funding through a controlled funding mechanism, under the oversight of ICC management, solely for approved national team programmes.



daCunha/AB/1104

A forgettable day for Indians; Carlsen avenges Firouzja loss

Gukesh falls to Keymer in the classical format, whereas Praggnanandhaa's adventurous approach costs him against So; Humpy goes down to Bibisara in Armageddon even as Divya loses to Ju

NORWAY CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

It wasn't a good day for the Indian players as all four (two each in the Open and women's events) suffered losses in the sixth round of Norway Chess 2026 at Deichman Bjorvika on Sunday.

World champion D. Gukesh succumbed to Germany's Vincent Keymer in the classical, handing his opponent a first win in the tournament while R. Praggnanandhaa's adventurous approach cost him against the experienced American Wesley So as all three games resulted in victories in the classical format.

"It's nice to finally win a game after so many failed chances," said Keymer after beating Gukesh, adding, "I don't think I was ever worse."

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen exacted revenge on Frenchman Alireza Firouzja, winning the reverse fixture after having opened his campaign with a loss to him.

After the win, the Norwegian ace said: "He kind of surprised me a little bit in the opening, and I thought, you know, I'll just play something.

"I think the plan he went for was not very good and I thought I got a fairly pleasant position, and, most of all, it was relatively easy to play... so I didn't have any reason to hemorrhage time on the clock as I have in other games," he added.

In the women's tournament, Bibisara Assaubayeva and Koneru Humpy played out a quick 15-move draw in the classical before the Kazakh raised her game in the Armageddon to win and return to the top of the leaderboard.

Divya Deshmukh, on the other hand, lost in a wild game to World champion Ju Wenjun.

Deep in thought: Bibisara returned to the top of the leaderboard by getting past Humpy in Armageddon. FLICKR/NORWAYCHESS

The results (sixth round):
Open: Vincent Keymer (Ger, 8) bt D. Gukesh (6.5), Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 7.5) bt Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 10), Wesley So (USA, 11.5) bt R. Praggnanandhaa (6).

Women: Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 9.5) bt Koneru Humpy (5.5) in Armageddon, Divya Deshmukh (8.5) lost to Ju Wenjun (Chn, 8), Zhu Jiner (Chn, 7) bt Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 8) in Armageddon.

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Double delight for Divyanshi

Sports Bureau

Fifteen-year-old Divyanshi Bhowmick produced a dream performance at Prishtina in Kosovo as she became the youngest Indian to win a WTT Feeder women's singles title.

World No. 211 Divyanshi stunned Taiwan's Yeh Yi-Tian, placed 38 in the chart, with a thrilling 8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 7-11, 11-7 victory.

Divyanshi also clinched the women's doubles top prize alongside fellow Indian teenager Syndrela Das. The pair defeated Japan's Sachi Aoki and Cocona Muramatsu 7-11, 14-12, 12-14, 11-8, 11-7.

In WTT Youth Contender Sandefjord (Norway), M. Ananya thumped compatriot Tushti Sood 14-12, 11-3, 12-10 for the u-17 crown.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Prathyusha slams ton

Prathyusha top-scored with 103 as Palar SC, Kolar thrashed Young Lions Club by 183 runs in the KSCA Senior Women's T20 tournament.

The scores: South End SC 133/8 in 20 overs bt Sir Syed Cricketers 119/7 in 20 overs.

Visweswarapuram (2) 97/6 in 20 overs (Tanushree Prakash Ijeri 65) lost to SUCC (1) 98/5 in 17.1 overs.

FUCC (2) 125/1 in 20 overs (Thejaswini Uday Kumar 46) bt Dooravani Cricketers (1) 120/6 in 20 overs.

Palar SC, Kolar 258/6 in 20 overs (Myra Jain 38, Prathyusha Challuru 103, Vrinda Dinesh 67) bt Young Lions Club 75/8 in 20 overs.

Coles 200/4 in 20 overs (M. Stuthi 77, Rakshita Moondra 51) bt Cavaliers 44/7 in 20 overs.

SUCC (2) 164/3 in 20 overs (Nandani Chauhan 67, P. Saloni 54) bt Whirlwind Cricketers 65 in 19.2 overs.

Omkar scalps six

H.R. Omkar starred with a six-wicket haul (six for 15) in Cambridge CC's thumping 10-wicket win over Zodiac CC in the KSCA Y.S. Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy.

The scores: Zodiac 41 in 14.4 overs (H.R. Omkar 6/15) lost to Cambridge 42 for no loss in 8.1 overs.

Chintamani SA 134 in 31.2 overs (Aaron Cyril Christie 73, Pranav Bhatia 4/30) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 138/6 in 16.3 overs (H.P. Abhishek 4/49).

City Gymkhana 76 in 16.4 overs (Rahul Shetty 4/10) lost to Whirlwind Cricketers 77/1 in 7.2 overs (Bhuvan Vishwanath 47).

FUCC (1) 172 in 26.4 overs (R. Shishir 51, H.J. Saideep 46) lost to Vijaya, Malur 175/8 in 29 overs.

Bangalore SC 93/8 in 34 overs (G.D. Naman 4/22) lost to Bangalore Occasionals 96/2 in 13.2 overs (Rajvir Wadhwa 51 n.o.).

Jayanagar United Cricketers 171 in 49.2 overs (Tejaswy Kolchippu 36) lost to Crescent (1) 174/4 in 30.5 overs (Syed Muteeb Uddin 51, V. Anoop Gandhi 59 n.o.).

Bangalore Star CA 291 in 47.5 overs (Deepak 78, Akhil Rao 46, Tanmay Gowda Vikas 50, Chethan 40, Manuveer Mahajan 4/50) bt Visweswarampuram (2) 164 in 38.1 overs (C. Barath 52).

Social Cricketers 172 in 42.2 overs (N. Rohan 72, Sheetal Kumar 4/29) lost to Jayanagar Cricketers 176/6 in 39.1 overs (Saharsh M. Reddy 47, H. Rithvik 49 n.o.).

Visweswarampuram (1) 249 in 47.4 overs (Nishith Raj 74, Harshil Arigala 56, P.S. Vikram 50, Nischith N. Rao 4/40) lost to SUCC (1) 251/6 in 43.1 overs (E.J. Jasper 45, Prakhar Chaturvedi 69, Nitish Arya 43, Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 44).

Annsh SC hits a dozen past Yelahanka FC

Annsh Sports Club notched up a massive 12-0 win over Yelahanka FC in a North Zone Group-C match of the KSFA C-division league championship here on Monday.

Other results:

Group-C: Black Moon FC bt Victoria FC 3-2; Ronaldo FC drew with Play 365 0-0.

Group-D: Agniputhra FC drew with DB United FC 1-1; RV FC drew with Blue Diamond FC 1-1.

SNAPSHOTS

Serena announces return to tennis

Serena Williams confirmed her return to tennis after an absence of nearly four years on Monday, with the American great set to play women's doubles at Queen's club later this month.

The 44-year-old has not played competitively since a third-round loss at the 2022 U.S. Open left her one short of the all-time record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles, jointly held by Margaret Court and Novak Djokovic.

The women's event at the London tournament starts on June 8.

Serena's imminent return has been touted since it was revealed in December she had re-entered the anti-doping programme – a prerequisite to play on the tour again.

Bhurtel.

Nepal's Bhurtel hits six sixes in an over

Nepal's Kushal Bhurtel became the sixth player to smash six sixes in an over in a T20I match. Bhurtel achieved the feat against China during the Asian Games Qualifier opener at the Singapore National Cricket Ground. He dispatched left-arm spinner Chen Zhuo Yue over the boundary six times off six consecutive deliveries. Yuvraj Singh, Kieron Pollard, Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee, Samoa's Darius Visser and Bulgaria's Manan Bashir are the others in the elite club.

Hope to lead WI in ODI series against Sri Lanka

West Indies has announced a 15-member squad for its upcoming ODI series against Sri Lanka, with all three matches scheduled to be played at Sabina Park in Jamaica between June 3 and June 8. Shai Hope will continue to lead the side, which has been strengthened by the return of several key players.

The squad: Shai Hope (Capt.), Ackeem Auguste, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Shimron Hetmyer, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales and Shamar Springer.

LIVE TELECAST

French Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Wednesday)

England Women vs India Women: 3rd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 11 p.m.

International Friendlies: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday)